

# Public Document Pack

## Cabinet

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Meeting Venue  
**Council Chamber - County Hall,  
Llandrindod Wells, Powys**

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Meeting date  
**Tuesday, 5 March 2019**

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Meeting time  
**10.30 am**

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For further information please contact  
**Stephen Boyd**  
01597 826374  
steve.boyd@powys.gov.uk



County Hall  
Llandrindod Wells  
Powys  
LD1 5LG

27 February 2019

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Mae croeso i chi siarad yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg yn y cyfarfod.  
Rhowch wybod pa iaith rydych am ei defnyddio erbyn hanner dydd, ddau ddiwrnod  
gwaith cyn y cyfarfod.  
You are welcome to speak Welsh or English in the meeting.  
Please inform us of which language you wish to use by noon, two working days  
before the meeting.

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### AGENDA

1.	<b>APOLOGIES</b>
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To receive apologies for absence.

2.	<b>MINUTES</b>
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To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>  
February 2019 as correct records.  
(Pages 3 - 14)

3.	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>
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To receive any declarations of interest from Members relating to items to be  
considered on the agenda.

4.	<b>2019/20 ANNUAL STRATEGIC REVIEW OF VISION 2025: OUR CIP</b>
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To consider a report by County Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Leader of Council.  
(Pages 15 - 34)

<b>5.</b>	<b>BUSINESS RATES HIGH STREET AND RETAIL RELIEF SCHEME 2019-20</b>
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To consider a report by County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport.

(Pages 35 - 54)

<b>6.</b>	<b>DRAFT RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN</b>
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To consider a report by County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport.

(Pages 55 - 216)

<b>7.</b>	<b>SCHOOLS SERVICE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMME 2019-2020</b>
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To consider a report by County Councillor Myfanwy Alexander, Portfolio Holder for Learning and Welsh Language.

(To Follow)

<b>8.</b>	<b>FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND FORECAST AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2019</b>
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To consider a report by County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport.

(Pages 217 - 228)

<b>9.</b>	<b>CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD TO 31ST JANUARY 2019</b>
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To consider a report by County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport.

(Pages 229 - 236)

<b>10.</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>
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To receive such correspondence as in the opinion of the Leader is of such urgency as to warrant consideration.

<b>11.</b>	<b>DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING</b>
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To note the delegated decisions taken since the last meeting.

(Pages 237 - 238)

<b>12.</b>	<b>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME</b>
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To consider the Cabinet forward work programme.

(Pages 239 - 242)

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER -  
COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY  
2019**

PRESENT

County Councillor

County Councillors A W Davies, MC Alexander, J Evans, S M Hayes, R Powell and M Weale

In attendance: County Councillors B Baynham, M Dorrance, J Morris, P Roberts and Mr J Brautigam.

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors Rosemarie Harris and Phyl Davies.

<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES</b>
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The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 as a correct record.

<b>3.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>
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There were no declarations of interest reported.

<b>4.</b>	<b>BUDGET FOR 2019-20, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2019-2024 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2019-2024</b>
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Cabinet considered the budget for 2019 - 2020, the medium term financial strategy for 2019 – 2024 and the capital programme for 2019 – 2024 (copy filed with the signed minutes).

The Portfolio Holder for Finance advised that the budget attempted to protect the services valued by residents and prioritised the council's Vision 2025. It maintained the funding for developing key priorities within Vision 2025 such as the mid-Wales Growth Deal, building 250 extra homes and using the council's spend to support county businesses with greater use of the Powys pound. An additional £1m would be passed on to schools delegated budgets and the budget also protected the investment made in Children's and Adults services. It was recognised that the council of the past was no longer affordable and significant changes were being made by transformational changes to the council's operating model. The budget did not rely on reserves or one-off sources of funding. The level of reserves was assessed as being at an acceptable level and in line with the Council's policy of maintaining a 3% minimum general fund reserves. The Portfolio Holder for Finance referred to the CIPFA independent assessment

which found that the council had appropriate procedures in place to set a robust budget but which had noted risks, particularly the achievement of savings.

County Councillor John Morris presented the findings of the Finance Scrutiny Panel. The Panel viewed the proposed budget as the highest risk they had looked at and had concerns over its deliverability. The Panel was concerned that the role of the Improvement and Assurance Board and its focus on social care had led to enormous budget pressures on other services. The Panel considered that a lack of pace of transformation was a risk and that not enough use had been made of capital receipts to fund transformation. The Panel welcomed the new schools funding formula but regarded schools deficits as a major risk and questioned whether the current mix of schools was affordable.

In response, Cabinet was advised that a small number of schools was skewing the overall position. The Portfolio Holder for Learning and Welsh Language did not regard the new funding formula as a replacement for transformation. It was acknowledged that there were significant risks in the budget but all Welsh councils were facing similar challenges. An additional £2.5m was being put into reserves to meet potential challenges next year. There were tight rules on the use of capital receipts which could only be used for existing budgets. Transformation had started and the Council would be significantly smaller as a result.

<b>RECOMMENDED to Council</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
<b>1. That the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2019 to 2024 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be agreed in principle.</b>	<b>To aid business planning and development of the budget over a three year period</b>
<b>2. That the proposed Revenue Budget for 2019/20 shown in the Financial Resource Model in Appendix 2 is accepted and recommended to full Council on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019.</b>	<b>Statutory Requirement</b>
<b>3. That the Fees and Charges proposed within the Fees and Charges Register are accepted and recommended to Full Council on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019. (Appendix 4 and 5)</b>	<b>To comply with Powys County Council Income Policy</b>
<b>4. The proposed Capital Strategy for 2019/20 shown in Appendix 6 including the revised Capital Receipts Policy is accepted and recommended to Full Council on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019.</b>	<b>Statutory Requirement</b>
<b>5. That a Council Tax increase of 9.5% is included in the budget</b>	<b>There is a Statutory Requirement to set Council Tax</b>

that goes to full council on the 21st February 2019.	but the level is a matter for local determination.
6. The authorised borrowing limit for 2019/20 as required under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003 be approved at £497m as set out in section 11.6 of the report.	Statutory Requirement
7. The Prudential Indicators for 2019/20 are approved as set out in section 10 of the report and Appendix 7.	Statutory Requirement

<b>5.</b>	<b>HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT RENT AND RELATED CHARGES INCREASE FOR 2019/20</b>
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Cabinet considered Council Housing Rents, Garage Rents and all property and tenancy related service charges. It was proposed that with effect from April 2019 the average rent in Powys increase by 2.4% + £1.30. The effect of this is that rent increase for:

- 3518 homes the increase is greater than 2.4% but less than 2.4% + £1.30 per week
- 174 homes the increase is greater than 2.4% + £1.30 but less than 2.4% + £2.00 per week
- 1608 homes the increase will be 2.4% plus £2.00 a week.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Reason for Decision:</b>
<p>1. The rent increase for HRA rents in 2019-20, as set out in paragraphs 2.8 and 2.9 are agreed</p> <p>2. The proposed service charge regime for 2019-20, as set out in Table 2 is agreed.</p> <p>3. The proposed HRA garage rent and garage plot rents for 2019-20, as set out in Table 3, is agreed.</p> <p>4. The proposed weekly occupancy charge and service charge for a plot on council run Gypsy &amp; Traveller sites for 2019-20, as set out in Table 4 is agreed.</p> <p>5. The weekly occupancy charge for temporary homelessness accommodation for 2019-20, as set out in Table 5, is agreed.</p>	<p>To maintain a viable Housing Service and Business Plan and remain compliant with legislation (Part IV Housing (Wales) Act 2014)</p>

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|--|--|
| <p><b>6. The weekly charge for community alarms is excluded from an increase, pending the outcome of a review.</b></p> <p><b>7. Other housing related charges are increased by 2.4% for 2019/20.</b></p> |  |
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<b>6.</b>	<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY TRADING COMPANY (LATC)</b>
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Cabinet considered a proposal to establish a Local Authority Trading Company to allow the commercial trading of council activities within the public and private sectors. The Articles of Association would be broadly drafted to give flexibility in the services that could be included. Approval was also being sought to complete a business case to establish if the current activity within the Heart of Wales Business Solutions (HWBS) is the first area to transfer into the LATC.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Reason for Decision:</b>
<p><b>1. To approve the establishment of a Local Authority Trading Company in accordance with the attached Business Case.</b></p>	<p><b>To enable the council to trade commercially within the public and private sectors.</b></p>
<p><b>2. To seek approval to complete a business case to establish if the current activity within the Heart of Wales Business Solutions (HWBS) is the first area to transfer into the LATC.</b></p>	<p><b>To provide additional flexibility for the Heart of Wales Business Solutions (HWBS) to trade with private organisations.</b></p>

<b>7.</b>	<b>FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND FORECAST AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2018</b>
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Cabinet considered the financial outturn report for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

The Chair of the Finance Panel advised that the Panel would be regularly monitoring these reports to look at how overspends were being tackled.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Reason for Decision</b>
<p><b>1. That the contents of the report are noted.</b></p>	<p><b>To monitor the council's financial performance and ensure that spending remains within approved limits and that the 3% minimum general fund reserve is maintained.</b></p>
<p><b>2. That given the pressure on the revenue budget the Cabinet supports the S151 Officer's requirement to control discretionary expenditure until the end of</b></p>	

<b>the financial year.</b>	
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<b>8.</b>	<b>CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD TO 31ST DECEMBER 2018</b>
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Cabinet considered the Capital Programme update for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Reason for decision</b>
<b>1. That the contents of the report are noted.</b>	<b>To outline the capital budget position as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018.</b>
<b>2. That the virements proposed in section 2 of the report are approved and those virements over £500,000 are recommended to Full Council.</b>	<b>To ensure appropriate virements, are carried out to align budgets with spending plans.</b>

<b>9.</b>	<b>TREASURY MANAGEMENT QTR 3 REPORT</b>
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Cabinet considered the Treasury Management report for Quarter 3.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Reason for Decision:</b>
<b>That the Treasury Management Quarterly Report be received</b>	<b>To ensure Cabinet remains informed about current Treasury Management performance</b>

<b>10.</b>	<b>WELSH PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS REPORT FOR 2017/18</b>
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Cabinet considered the Annual Report from the Welsh Government on the Library Service, for the year 2017-18, as required under the Welsh Public Library Standards. Powys Library Service had met 11 of the 12 core entitlements in full, and partially achieved the 12th. The service had met 5 of the quality indicators in full, 1 in part, and failed to meet four.

County Councillor Pete Roberts outlined the three recommendations from the Scrutiny review. A written response was required within 2 months.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Reason for Decision</b>
<b>That the outcomes in the Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Report from Welsh Government on Powys Library Service 2017/18 are duly noted and considered in forward planning.</b>	<b>In order that Powys Library Service continues to provide a quality service to residents, maintains and improves its performance under the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework of Welsh Public</b>

	<b>Library Standards, and seeks to address as far as possible those areas which do not currently meet Welsh Government's standard.</b>
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<b>11.</b>	<b>UPDATE: REVIEW OF DAY TIME ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER PEOPLE (INCLUDING DAY CENTRES)</b>
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Cabinet considered an update report on day time activities for older people. The report outlined the work undertaken to date and the planned future work to ensure that the service was provided and sustainable at a reduced cost. The report also described work undertaken with 3<sup>rd</sup> sector day services for older people. The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care acknowledged the importance of the centres in providing respite for carers. He noted that some of the changes outlined in the report depended on the Capital budget being approved by Council.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Reason for Decision</b>
<b>That the contents of the report are noted.</b>	<b>The report is for information and enables the development work to continue.</b>

<b>12.</b>	<b>CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING 6 MONTHLY UPDATE AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018</b>
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Cabinet considered the 6 monthly report from the Chair of the Corporate Safeguarding Group.

<b>RESOLVED:</b>	<b>Reason for Decision:</b>
<b>Cabinet receives the 6monthly briefing update from the Chair of the Corporate Safeguarding Group.</b>	<b>To ensure Cabinet are fully sighted on work to date.</b>

<b>13.</b>	<b>REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE IMPROVEMENT AND ASSURANCE BOARD</b>
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Cabinet considered the report of the Chair of the Improvement and Assurance Board.

<b>14.</b>	<b>IMPROVEMENT AND ASSURANCE BOARD MINUTES</b>
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The Cabinet received the minutes of the Improvement and Assurance Board held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019.



<b>15.</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>
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There were no items of correspondence.

<b>16.</b>	<b>DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING</b>
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Cabinet noted the delegated decisions taken since the last meeting.

<b>17.</b>	<b>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME</b>
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Cabinet received the forward work programme. The Chair reminded Portfolio Holders and officers of keeping the programme up to date to assist Scrutiny with its work.

<b>18.</b>	<b>EXEMPT ITEMS</b>
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Cabinet was advised that the confidential report was being withdrawn so there was no need to pass the resolution.

<b>19.</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT OF THE POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL OWNED RESIDENTIAL HOMES</b>
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This item was deferred.

**County Councillor Aled Davies  
Chair**

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM A - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2019**

PRESENT

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)

County Councillors A W Davies, MC Alexander, P Davies, J Evans, S M Hayes, R Powell and M Weale

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>
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Apologies for absence were received from the Director of Social Services and the Senior Manager, Chief Executive and Member Services.

<b>2.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>
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There were no declarations of interest reported.

<b>3.</b>	<b>EXEMPT ITEMS</b>
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**RESOLVED to exclude the public for the following item of business on the grounds that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information under category 3 of The Local Authorities (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007).**

<b>4.</b>	<b>NORTH POWYS WELLBEING PROGRAMME</b>
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Cabinet considered proposals to develop an integrated health, care and wellbeing campus in Newtown. The proposals were supported by a scoping report prepared by Arcadis.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Reason for Decision:</b>
<p><b>1. To approve the emerging scope (appendix two to the report) and further development of the scope of the project taking into account the work done by Arcadis.</b></p>	<p><b>The concept of the multi-agency wellbeing model has been developed with partners and provides a high level framework to take forward a Strategic Outline Case for a new joint capital development with the Health Board.</b></p> <p><b>The multi-agency wellbeing campus includes the Rural Regional Centre, Community Wellbeing Hub, Schools,</b></p>

	<p><b>Supported Living accommodation and Library services for North Powys; this development is anticipated to bring about significant intergenerational opportunities</b></p> <p><b>Further work will be undertaken to develop the model as part of the design process.</b></p>
<p><b>2. To agree that if this scope of the project changes from that shown in appendix two, that a further report will be submitted to the Cabinet and PTHB Board.</b></p>	<p><b>It is acknowledged that the scope may change given the more detailed work required to take the programme forward to Strategic Outline Case.</b></p>
<p><b>3. To approve in principle the use of PCC owned land for the project, provided that suitable service provision is included within the project (Schools, Library, Day Centre, Park St Clinic, Flying Start provision) with the final decision to come back to Cabinet at a later date.</b></p>	<p><b>Following an independent review, the potential sites available in Newtown were assessed through a robust site evaluation methodology.</b></p>
<p><b>4. To authorise PCC and PTHB officers to continue negotiating the purchase of a property.</b></p>	<p><b>To enable the site boundaries to be extended to provide more flexibility around the development</b></p>
<p><b>5. To authorise the approval of work required to move the programme through to Strategic Outline Case, which is submitted back to Cabinet and PTHB Board for approval in Spring 2020.</b></p>	<p><b>The development of a SOC will enable the programme team to access Welsh Government capital funding to support the development.</b></p>

County Councillor Aled Davies arrived at 11.00 a.m. and abstained having missed part of the debate.

<b>5.</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT OF THE POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL OWNED RESIDENTIAL HOMES</b>
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Cabinet considered arrangements for managing the Council's care homes and Glan Irfon beyond the current contract term which was due to end in May 2019. A competitive tender exercise had been undertaken and the tenders evaluated and on the basis of the evaluation it was being recommended that the tender be

awarded to the winning bidding organisation and to work with them in developing the service and to plan future developments to the service over the period of the contract. There were two Lots within the tender, the winning bidder was the same for both Lots.

Members asked the Section 151 Officer whether the proposal was in budget and were advised that the additional cost had been included in the service pressures identified within the budget plan. These pressures were being supported by proposals to deliver savings to mitigate these costs. The risks associated with the delivery of the savings had been considered as part of the overarching budget plan and the identification of additional budget to increase the budget management reserve would ensure that these risks could be covered.

Members discussed whether the proposal was transformational and it was agreed that the service would report within 12 months on options for service transformation and service efficiency.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Reason for Decision:</b>
<p><b>1. To award the contract to the winning bidder of the tender process:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lot 1 - adopting the shared risk / shared profit model with the organisation as set out in the report and Appendix B.</li> <li>• Lot 2 – awarding at the single rate provided with annual inflationary increases.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1. To enable safe transition of the service to a new provider and to ensure the service is managed safely for the coming 3-5 years.</b></p>
<p><b>2. To review the service in the context of extra care developments, demand for residential care, and potential governance options over the first year of the contract with the provider and stakeholders. To provide Cabinet with a report within 12 months on options for service transformation and service efficiency.</b></p>	<p><b>2. To enable longer term development and the provision of sustainable residential care in Powys.</b></p>
<p><b>3. To manage the contract and to work with the provider to ensure void beds are filled and that property works are prioritised and undertaken</b></p>	<p><b>3. Ensure close management of the contract and reduce the risk in the shared risk / profit model. This could also enable additional income into the</b></p>

<b>effectively.</b>	<b>Council if managed effectively.</b>
<b>4. For the service to negotiate with the winning bidder the management of Maes y Wennol Day Service provided that the cost remains within existing budgets.</b>	<b>4. To enable efficient and economical provision of day services in Llanidloes.</b>

**County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)**

## CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET  
5<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**REPORT AUTHOR:** County Councillor Rosemarie Harris  
Leader of Council

**SUBJECT:** 2019/20 Annual Strategic Review of Vision 2025: Our CIP

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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### 1. Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present key findings of an Annual Review of Vision 2025: Our CIP for consideration and to get Cabinet approval for a number of changes to the plan for 2019/20 onwards. Vision 2025: Our Corporate Improvement Plan was first published in April 2018, setting out a series of public commitments for how the council will deliver its four external facing objectives and one internal facing.

- The Economy
- Health and Care
- Learning and Skills
- Residents and Communities
- Making it Happen

1.2 A broad range of information was analysed as part of the Annual Review of Vision 2025: Our CIP, including corporate performance, financial position, regulator feedback, strategic risk, customer feedback and legislative duties. The review provides a corporate insight into the key strengths and weaknesses in relation to delivery of the plan, as well as identifying opportunities and threats which need to be addressed in the plan in future years. A summary of the Annual Review is attached at Appendix B for information. During 2018-19, some aspects of the plan were still being properly defined and through this definition work, opportunities for strengthening the plan have been identified.

1.3 Annually reviewing the objectives, activities and measures in the CIP ensures that they are still the most relevant for delivering improved outcomes for Powys residents and Communities as well as ensuring the plan remains realistic and achievable within the current financial climate. In line with the findings of the review, a series of recommendations have been made by officers to change, remove or add a number of the activities and performance measures within the current plan (recommendations outlined in Appendix A). The recommended changes aim to ensure that the CIP is streamlined going forward, that it focusses on key transformation and improvement activity, rather than business as usual, that it removes duplication and that it doesn't conflict with the proposed savings and budgetary pressures.

1.4 Following consideration and approval of the proposed amendments to the Plan, an Updated CIP will be published as part of the 2018-19 Annual Performance

Report. All agreed amendments will come into effect in the new financial year 2019/20.

1.5 The CIP Update and Annual Performance Report will be developed in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This requires the council to implement well-being objectives in accordance with the 5 Ways of Working and show how it will maximise its contribution to the 7 Well-being goals.

1.6 The CIP should also remain aligned to the Powys Public Service Board Well-being Plan and the Regional Partnership Board Area Plan to ensure that partners are working towards the same outcomes for the people of Powys.

## **2. Proposal**

2.1 It is proposed that the recommended changes to the activities and performance measures within Vision 2025: Our CIP (outlined in Appendix A) are approved for publication in the 2019/20 CIP Update and for delivery and reporting from April 2019.

## **3. Options Considered / Available**

3.1 N/A

## **4. Preferred Choice and Reasons**

N/A

## **5. Impact Assessment**

5.1 Is an impact assessment required? No

5.2 If yes is it attached? Yes/No

## **6. Corporate Improvement Plan**

6.1 This report specifically outlines the findings of an annual review of the current CIP (2018-2023) and sets out proposals for ensuring the plan remains relevant and realistic in line with current and future demands.

## **7. Local Member(s)**

7.1 This report impacts all Members equally and does not affect local Members individually.

## **8. Other Front Line Services**

Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council? Yes

## **9. Communications**



Have Communications seen a copy of this report?

**10. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)**

10.1 Legal: The Recommendations are acceptable from a legal point of view

10.2 Finance: The Finance Business Partner notes the contents of the report.

**11. Scrutiny**

Has this report been scrutinised? Circulated via email for comments to the Economy, Residents & Communities and Governance Scrutiny Committee.

**12. Statutory Officers**

12.1 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer ) commented as follows : “ I note the legal comments and have nothing to add to the report.”

12.2 The Head of Financial Services (Deputy Section 151 Officer): The Head of Financial Services (Deputy Section 151 Officer) notes the content of the report.

**13. Members’ Interests**

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
<b>That amendments 1 - 66 (set out in Appendix A) for Updating Vision 2025: Our Corporate Improvement Plan 2018-2023 are considered and agreed for publication and delivery from April 2019.</b>	<b>To ensure Vision 2025: Our Corporate Improvement Plan remains realistic and relevant. To ensure Vision 2025: Our CIP has a clear delivery plan and that all activity is focussed on delivery of the intended outcomes. To strengthen the plan and ensure that the council meets its statutory obligations as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (Part 1 and 2).</b>

<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>	CIP 2018-23; Performance Management and Quality Assurance Framework		
<b>Within Policy:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Within Budget:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	<b>All Members</b>
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<b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>	<b>Executive Management Team</b>
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>	

Contact Officer: Emma Palmer Tel: 01874 612217 Email: emma.palmer@powys.gov.uk
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**Background Papers used to prepare Report:**

**APPENDIX A – Recommended changes/ additions to Vision 2025: Our Corporate Improvement Plan for April 2019 onwards.**

**1. Recommendations**

<b>Vision 2025 Priority</b>	<b>Current CIP activity or performance measure</b>	<b>Proposed change and reason for change</b>	<b>Proposed by</b>
1. Economy	We will review and improve marketing opportunities for Powys and build a comprehensive marketing programme by 2018/19.	Revise wording to better reflect the approach regarding better branding and development of an Events Strategy: <b>We will agree and implement an events strategy and rebrand the current Mid Wales My Way tourism marketing programme, to ensure that Powys is recognised as a destination that people want to visit.</b>	Lisa Griffiths
2. Economy	Through the Growing Mid Wales Partnership, we will lobby Welsh Government for a Mid Wales growth deal, encouraging businesses to stay and invest here. By the end of 2019 we will complete a review of growth opportunities across the Mid Wales region to inform the development of suitable projects.	Revise wording as we are working with WG not lobbying them: <b>We will work with partners to secure a growth deal potentially worth in the region of £200m, in order to maximise the economic benefit for Mid Wales and encourage businesses to stay and invest here.</b>	Lisa Griffiths
3. Economy	By 2019/20 we will develop an inward investment strategy and action plan to attract new and relocating business.	Remove as there is already an investment Strategy in place which Members are signed up to. Implementation of the strategy is part of the regeneration team's day to day business. Work involves advising businesses on potential sites etc, but the Council cannot influence business investment without significant resource. The focus is therefore on the Growth Deal and the potential that this may bring.	Lisa Griffiths
4. Economy	We will continue to invest in and protect the natural, built and historic environment to support business growth and tourism	Remove as being done through a partnership approach as part of the Public Service Board Well-being Plan. Towards 2040 – Step 8: Develop a sustainable environment strategy Towards 2040 – Step 9: Undertake market research and establish an effective infrastructure to support active enjoyment of the environment and adventure tourism	Lisa Griffiths

5. Economy	Support the development of place plans/local area plans for regeneration	Remove as duplicates activity under the 'Residents and Communities' priority.	Lisa Griffiths
7. Economy	We will host 12 business breakfast networking meetings and 12 workshop meetings for micro businesses per year.	Change target to 6 business network meetings (not 12) for 2019/20, as this is more realistic.	Lisa Griffiths
8. Economy	We will help support the roll out of superfast broadband by Welsh Government and community solutions.	Revise this measure as it is an activity not a measure and replace with: <b>Increased number of communities supported through advice and assistance regarding community broadband solutions. (3 communities supported during 2018-19).</b>	Lisa Griffiths
9. Economy	Ensure provision of year-round cultural, leisure and art for Powys residents to encourage them to stay in the county	Remove as unsustainable in line with savings proposals for arts, libraries and museums services.	Stuart Mackintosh
10. Economy	We will become the provider of Heart of Wales Business Solutions (HWBS) for up to 10 new business clients per year	Remove as it is now business as usual rather than transformational or significant improvement.	Nicola Williams
11. Economy	Develop 250 new affordable homes across the county and support our housing association partners to develop a similar number of new affordable homes	Remove this activity as it duplicates the activity outlined below and there is already a performance measure and target to develop 250 new affordable homes: <b>Ensure there is a greater choice of affordable housing and extra care provision so people have a choice of where to live and stay in their communities</b>	Simon Inkson
12. Economy	Achievement of the Welsh Government Welsh Housing Quality Standard by December 2018	Remove as completed in 2018. Ongoing improvement works will become incorporated as business as usual.	Simon Inkson
13. Economy	Fully refurbished office accommodation will be made available at Ladywell House in Newtown, by the end of April 2019	Change completion date to end of September 2019.	Ken Yorston
14. Economy	We will develop proposals to improve our transport infrastructure and connectivity to help support the local economy, for example current schemes include the Newtown Active Travel Routes (£400k) and the T6 Bus infrastructure improvements (£600k)	Revise wording to better reflect planned projects: <b>We will aim to improve transport provision and connectivity by competing for grant funding opportunities that will allow us to deliver infrastructure projects, for active travel, transport and safety.</b>	Adrian Jervis

15.Economy	Investment in excess of £8million of Capital into our transport infrastructure using the Freight Strategy and Active Travel Plan priorities to inform investment	Remove and replace with the following more appropriate measure: <b>By 2020 we will complete the brief, design or construction phases on the following projects:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transport Interchange Improvements at Machynlleth, Welshpool and Llandrindod</b></li> <li>• <b>Pedestrian and Cyle Links Crickhowell to Llangattock, Knighton to Train Station, Presteigne, Newtown Severn Crossing and Link.</b></li> </ul>	Adrian Jervis
16.Economy	By 2020 we will ensure our policies and processes make it easier for local companies to supply to the council	No change to this activity, but propose adding a new measure to provide a better picture of whether improvement is being made to encourage local businesses to tender for contracts. <b>New measure: Engagement of local suppliers in the council's procurement process</b> <b>2017-18 baseline: 336 local companies invited to tender from a total 1309. 96 of the 336 responded and 26 ITT awarded.</b>	Vince Hanley
17.Health and Care (Live Well/ Age Well)	Primary Care - Working within the GP clusters and third sector we will develop a population based approach to planning and delivering health and social care. We will further integrate primary care with community based services and the proposed model of care to improve accessibility via Well-being Community Hubs	Remove as predominantly a Health board outcome.	Dylan Owen
18.Health and Care (Live Well/ Age Well)	Care Co-ordination - Build on the success of the two Integrated Team pilot sites in South Powys and further develop across the county in line with the Regional Centres and Community Hubs	Revise wording to reflect further improvement needed: <b>To develop integrated /co-located multi-disciplinary teams in line with the Regional Centres and community hubs.</b>	Dylan Owen
19.Health and Care (Live Well/ Age Well)	New model of care for Llandrindod – Regional Rural Centre - Build on the Welsh Government investment of £6.5m to reconfigure the layout of Llandrindod War Memorial Hospital and further assess current service provision, as well as working with the community to further develop a potential for the Regional Rural Centre to deliver integrated health and care for the population of the Llandrindod Wells area	Remove as predominantly a Health board outcome.	Dylan Owen

20. Health and Care (Live Well/ Age Well)	New model of care for Machynlleth – Community Hub - Establish Bro Ddyfi Hospital as a Well-being Community Hub for the local community to provide a base for health, local authority and third sector teams, encouraging integration and efficiency to improve access to health and social care, well-being, prevention and health promotion facilities	Remove, as predominantly a Health board outcome.	Dylan Owen
21. Health and Care (Live Well/ Age Well)	Telecare and Telehealth - We will promote and rollout telecare and telehealth to enable people to self-care and remain independent in their own homes	Revise wording to ensure a Social Services/ Council emphasis as opposed to Health emphasis: <b>Technology Enabled Independence and Care - We will continue to develop and implement technology enabled care.</b>	Dylan Owen
22. Health and Care (Live Well/ Age Well)	Access and Transport: Miles Matter - Review of non-emergency patient transport and voluntary transport schemes to ensure future provision of community transport	Remove, as predominantly a Health board outcome.	Dylan Owen
23. Health and Care (Live Well/ Age Well)	Welsh Language - We will improve the Welsh language offer across health and social care services to improve equity	Revise wording to make it more meaningful for capturing of data from an Adult Services/Local Authority perspective as unable to measure health: <b>Welsh Language - We will improve the Active Offer across social care services to improve equity</b>	Dylan Owen
24. Health and Care (Live Well/ Age Well)	A year on year increase in the number of staff providing people with integrated social and health care services (this was 10.5 full time equivalents in 2017)	Change to the following measure as Health staffing figures are not being made available to the Local Authority, but Adult Services are able to provide statistics for their own staff: <b>A year on year increase in the number of social services staff providing people with integrated/co-located social and health care services</b>	Dylan Owen
25. Health and Care (Live Well/ Age Well)	The number of service users with Learning Disabilities receiving residential care or supported tenancies outside of Powys will reduce by 5 by 2023	The original measure opposite has been redefined to capture more detailed reporting information for the I&A Board: <b>Number of service users with a learning disabilities progressed from a residential care setting to a more independent and flexible community support options (not in Powys and within Powys)</b>	Dylan Owen

26. Health and Care (Start Well)	<p>Children's Improvement Plan priorities (as set out in current CIP):</p> <p>In Children's Services, we will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support families to stay together and reduce the need for children to be looked after, by focusing on services which provide timely help, build on family's strengths and prevent greater problems arising</li> <li>2. Manage risk confidently and effectively when providing support to families where children and young people need to be safeguarded or they are judged to be on the 'edge of care' by making sure that their needs are accurately assessed and met effectively, with positive outcomes for them</li> <li>3. Provide and commission a flexible and affordable mix of high quality placements for children who are looked after to meet the diverse range of their needs and circumstances</li> <li>4. Give children and young people clearly planned journeys through care and into adulthood</li> </ol>	<p>Replace with objectives from the updated Childrens Improvement Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Focus on early intervention and prevention ensuring access to the right support at the right time to keep families together, where possible and children safe. Intervene at the earliest opportunity to ensure that children and young people do not suffer harm.</li> <li>2. Provide good parenting and specialist support. Working with families rather than doing to. Work with children, young people and their families to co-produce plans which will bring about the changes children need as quickly as possible.</li> <li>3. Providing and commissioning a flexible and affordable mix of high quality placements for children who are looked after to meet the diverse range of their needs and circumstances, keeping children as close to home as possible.</li> <li>4. Achieve the best possible outcomes for those children in our care giving them clearly planned journeys through care into adulthood</li> </ol>	Jan Coles
27. Health and Care (Start Well)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced numbers of First Time Entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice System from 18 to 15</li> <li>• A safe reduction in the number of children living away from their families, especially in placements outside the county from 204 (in Feb 2018) to 180 by 2018/19</li> <li>o A reduction in the percentage of placement breakdown</li> <li>• Increased number of children finding permanent homes, including adoption</li> <li>• Percentage of initial health assessments completed within 20 days from 67% to 100% by 2018/19</li> <li>• Percentage of review health assessments completed within 6 months (under 5 years)/ 12 months (over 5 years) from 97% to 100% by 2018/19</li> </ul>	<p>Remove measures opposite as they either cannot be collected or are health board led. Add in the following two measure in line with updated Childrens Improvement Plan priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New measure: Increase in the percentage of contacts to children services referred to early help (13% December 2018)</li> <li>• New measure: Reduction in the percentage of assessments completed with an outcome of no further action (72% October 2018)</li> </ul>	Jan Coles

28. Health and Care (Start Well)		<p>Start Well will contribute to the following Regional Partnership Board priorities (others which are health board led should be removed from the council's CIP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting Unpaid Carers</li> <li>• Mental Health</li> <li>• Staff and Partner Engagement</li> <li>• Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA)</li> <li>• Safeguarding</li> <li>• Welsh Language</li> </ul>	Jan Coles
29. Health and Care (Start Well)	<p>Increased parental confidence following parental support programmes (in 2017/18, 89% reduced frequency of behavioural problems and 84% reduced number of problem behaviours)</p> <p>Improved emotional and mental well-being amongst children and young people (baseline to be established)</p>	<p>Remove the first measure opposite.</p> <p>Reword the second measure opposite so that it is clear what is being measured: Improved emotional and mental well-being amongst children and young people <b>who access our counselling services</b> (baseline to be established)</p>	Jan Coles
30. Learning and Skills	We will implement a joined-up system for supporting children and young people with additional learning needs to improve their experiences and outcomes by 2020	Change end date from 2020 to 2023. WG have extended the timescales and are expecting a phased approach.	Alec Clark
31. Learning and Skills	We will work with partners to ensure that all children, young people and families have access to advice and information about relevant early support to build coping skills, improve well-being and address any problems before these become entrenched. We will continue to provide support to young people and their families through our multi-agency Team Around the Family approach	Remove as duplicates the activity under Health and Care relating to IAA and measure around TAF/Early help services	Jan Coles
32. Learning and Skills	Our school buildings will be transformed through delivery of a £114m capital investment scheme. We will ensure that our new and re-furbished schools provide modern environments that are fully equipped for 21st century learning and are central to community life. We will complete the first round of capital investment by 2020 (Band A)	Revise wording to add in reference to Band B at the end of this activity. We will complete the first round of capital investment by 2020 (Band A) and second round (Band B) by 2025.	Alec Clark



33.Learning and Skills	We will improve routes to employability by: Promoting the development of enterprise and work readiness skills in young people	Remove as it duplicates the activity relating to the roll out of the new education curriculum.	Alec Clark
34.Learning and Skills	We will develop a highly skilled workforce, where skills match the needs of the local economy, by: · Taking action to develop a new county-wide sixth form delivery model with an attractive and broad ranging academic and vocational curriculum by 2020	Remove as it duplicates the activity relating to implementation of the Schools Organisation policy and Delivery Plan.	Alec Clark
35.Learning and Skills	Increase in the proportion of schools with a Green or Yellow categorisation in the National School Categorisation System from 61% to 80% by 2021	Change Target in line with Targets in Schools Improvement Plan. 75% by 2022.	Alec Clark
36.Learning and Skills	The number of pupils permanently excluded per 1,000 pupils in primary and secondary schools will reduce from 0.51 (primary) and 1.35 (secondary) to 0.10 (primary) and 1.01 (secondary) by 2025	Change Target in line with Targets in Schools Improvement Plan. The number of pupils permanently excluded per 1,000 pupils in primary and secondary schools will reduce from 0.3 to 0 for primary and from 1.21 to 1.01 for secondary by 2025	Alec Clark
37.Learning and Skills	8a. Increase the percentage of Looked After pupils attaining Foundation Phase Indicator from 66.7% to 90% by 2025 8b. Increase the percentage of Looked After pupils attaining the Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage 2 from 77.8% to 90% by 2025 8c. Increase the percentage of Looked After pupils attaining the Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage 3 from 58.3% to 89% by 2025 8d. Increase the percentage attendance of Looked After pupils in primary schools from 97.6% to 98% and in secondary schools from 94.6% to 98% by 2020 8e. Increase the percentage of Looked After pupils with Personal Education Plan's completed from 77% to 95% by 2020 8f. Improved Average Capped Points Score for Looked After pupils from 248 to 350 by 2025	Remove Measures 8a, 8c and 8d (LAC already included in broader attendance measure and cohort of LAC too small to provide meaningful data). Retain measures 8a and 8f (this ensures one measure for Primary and one for Secondary at the end of each phase), but change the targets so that they are more realistic: Increase the %age of LAC pupils attaining the Core Subject Indicator at Key stage 2 from 77.8% to 85% by 2025; Improved average capped points score for LAC pupils from 248 to 320 by 2025	Alec Clark

38.Learning and Skills	Increase in the uptake of early years services from 873 children to 1000 children by end December 2020	Change Target date in line with roll out of 30 hrs free childcare offer for Wales. 1000 children by 2021.	Alec Clark
39.Learning and Skills	Reduce surplus places to 14% in primary (Baseline 16.7%) and 21% in secondary (Baseline 24%) by 2020	Change Target in line with School Improvement Plan. Reduce surplus places to 16% in primary (Baseline 16.7%) and 24% in secondary (Baseline 24%) by 2020	Alec Clark
40.Learning and Skills	Reduction in the number of our school buildings with an overall condition standard of C or D from 132 to 120 by 2025	Change measure to show more positive increase in A and B condition. <b>Increase the percentage of our schools building blocks with an overall condition standard of A or B from 59.15% (200 out of total 338 number of blocks – 1/01/2019) to 74.87% by August 2021</b>	Alec Clark
41.Learning and Skills	Increase the percentage of pupils assessed in Welsh (first language) in Year 2 from 19% in 2016/17 to 20.5% by 2021	Change to more appropriate measure: <b>Increase the percentage of pupils assessed in Welsh at the end of the Foundation Phase (Yr.2) from 19.1% in 2016/17 to 22.5% in 2021</b>	Alec Clark
42.Learning and Skills	Increase in the number of apprentices employed by the council and its partners from 41 to 65 apprentices for Powys County Council by 2020.	Change Baseline as was recorded wrong in original document. Baseline was 35 not 41.	Alec Clark
43.Residents and Communities	We will work with communities to support the development of local Place Based Plans, enabling communities to have an active role in the design and delivery of the services and amenities they need locally to improve their communities	Revise wording to make reference to the Tri Towns approach and merge volunteering into this activity: <b>We will enable communities to have an active role in the design and delivery of their local services and amenities by supporting them with the development of Place Based Plans, the Tri Town initiative and opportunities for volunteering.</b>	Lisa Griffiths
44.Residents and Communities	We will encourage and support more people of all ages to volunteer and contribute to the well-being of their communities, enabling the growth of community initiatives, community resilience and embedding a community spirit	Remove as a separate activity. Volunteering will be part of the Tri Town initiative and Place based plans.	Lisa Griffiths
45.Residents and Communities	By 2019 we will review the passenger transport offer for our communities and working with residents we will provide a service that is fit for purpose.	Remove this activity and associated performance measure as the review has been completed and service re-tendered. Implementation is now incorporated within business as usual.	Adrian Jervis

	By 2019 we will review the community transport offer for our communities. Within 24 months of the review findings we will deliver a community transport service that meets the needs of our residents and is fit for purpose		
46.Residents and Communities	By 2020 we will develop a 'Community Pledge' which sets out the responsibilities and actions the council and our residents will sign up to. The pledge will be an informal agreement that enables us to develop thriving, connected and healthy communities and an economically prosperous and environmentally friendly county	Remove as there is no buy in for this approach from Portfolio Holders.	Lisa Griffiths
47.Residents and Communities	Agreement by all county councillors to promote the Community Pledge in their local constituencies by 2021	Remove as no buy in from Portfolio Holders.	Lisa Griffiths
48.Residents and Communities	We will support the rationalisation of Town and Community Councils following the Welsh Governments review of Community Councils in July 2018 when new structures/models will be proposed	Revise wording to better reflect the approach being taken: <b>We will support the review of Town and Community Councils based on the Welsh Government proposals.</b>	Lisa Griffiths
49.Residents and Communities	Partnership with Town and Community Councils in line with new arrangements, as a result of the recommendations from the Welsh Government review.	Remove as this is an activity, not a measure and it duplicates activity 46 (above).	Lisa Griffiths
50.Residents and Communities	We will continue to carry out improvements to the council's housing stock, ensuring all our tenants live in fit for purpose homes	Remove this activity as the significant WHQS work will be completed by December 2018 and ongoing improvement works will become incorporated as business as usual. Replace with following <b>NEW ACTIVITY: Continue to improve the quality of the environment that our housing tenants live in and the services they receive through the delivery of the Love Where You Live tenancy sustainability strategy.</b> Add new measures to monitor progress of Love Where you Live Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased levels of tenant satisfaction with the quality of their neighbourhood (baseline to be established)</li> <li>• Increased level of housing tenants engagement (baseline to be established)</li> </ul>	Simon Inkson

51.Residents and Communities	We will work with our residents to enable them to have an opportunity to influence the local delivery requirements of our council run services and we will clearly define the standard of services delivered by the council	Remove, as Community Pledge has been rejected and the introduction of a new engagement platform which is only a small element of delivering this objective, is also reported under Making it Happen.	Lisa/ Anya
52.Residents and Communities		As part of the Environment Act, the council has a duty to produce a Plan by Dec 2019 showing how it will maintain biodiversity. The Annual Strategic Review also recognises that the current CIP is weak in terms of contribution to the 'Resilient Wales' goal. For this reason, EMT should consider adding in the following aim and activity to the 'Residents and Communities' priority of Vision 2025: <b>New Aim: Safeguard and enhance the natural environment for residents and communities</b> <b>New Activity: By December 2019, we will develop steps to show how we will actively maintain and enhance biodiversity when delivering our services and comply with our duties under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.</b>	Stuart Mackintosh
53.Making it Happen	We will ensure residents are heard through ongoing communication and dialogue We will ensure communities are engaged in a timely and meaningful manner which informs decision making	Merge the two existing activities into the following single activity, as they are very similar: <b>We will develop tools to enable residents to be heard, and engage in ongoing communication and dialogue with our communities to inform decision making.</b>  Add the following performance measures to monitor success: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of new engagement platform by ?</li> <li>• Establishment of the Powys Citizens Panel on the My Powys Account by ?</li> <li>• Completion of the Residents Survey by ?</li> </ul>	Anya Richards
54.Making it Happen	We will be open and transparent and communicate in plain Welsh and English	Remove as this duplicates the council's values and is not a project of work.	Anya Richards
55.Making it Happen	We will ensure county and community councillors are well informed and actively engage with residents	Remove as this is business as usual not significant improvement of transformation work.	Wyn Richards

56.Making it Happen	We will develop an agile and flexible workforce to deliver services	Remove as this is an outcome/ approach and not a project of work.	Nicola Williams
57.Making it Happen	We will be an organisation that demonstrates good practice	Remove as this is an outcome and not a project of work.	
58.Making it Happen	<p>We will recruit and grow our own talent through apprenticeships and trainees.</p> <p>We will develop capacity to grow our professional expertise and have access to a skilled social care workforce.</p> <p>We will have the right skills, attitude, behaviours and experience to be innovative.</p> <p>We will be an attractive employer.</p>	<p>Replace the existing activities opposite, with the two activities below, to ensure clear alignment with the direction set out in the Organisational Transformation paper.</p> <p><b>We will re-model the council's staffing structure to embed changes in organisational culture, while making significant financial savings.</b></p> <p><b>We will equip the workforce with the right skills, attitude, behaviours and experience and develop our own talent through apprenticeships and training, to enable them to reach their potential.</b></p> <p>Add the following measures to the CIP to support the activities above (these were already reported to the MiH Board):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reduction in pay bill</b></li> <li>• <b>Reduction in Head Count</b></li> <li>• <b>Staff Survey questions- temperature check Net Consent</b></li> <li>• <b>Number of successful candidates recruited internally/matched to roles**</b></li> <li>• <b>Staff Appraisal compliance data</b></li> <li>• <b>Sickness absence data</b></li> </ul>	John Bevan
59.Making it Happen	We will promote strong partnership working	Remove as this duplicates the council's values and is not a project of work.	
60.Making it Happen	We will prioritise residents and communities	Remove as this duplicates the council's values and is not a project of work.	
61.Making it Happen	We will be pro-active and forward thinking	Remove as this duplicates the council's values and is not a project of work.	

62.Making it Happen	We will have seamless and efficient processes to get things 'right' first time	Revise wording: <b>We will review and re-design our services to ensure that they are more efficient and focus on our customers' requirements.</b>	Emma Palmer
63.Making it Happen	We will make evidence based decisions underpinned by accurate information	Revise wording: <b>We will review and embed a Performance Management and Quality Assurance Framework to ensure our decisions are underpinned by accurate information which are aligned to the council's vision and priorities.</b>	Emma Palmer
64.Making it Happen	We will focus on outcomes instead of activity	Remove as this duplicates the council's values and is not a project of work.	Emma Palmer
65.Making it Happen	We will make best use of resources and improve productivity continually improving customer satisfaction	Remove and replace with: <b>We will explore the benefits of establishing a Local Authority Trading Company to improve opportunities for greater income generation as well as a significant drive to reduce Council expenditure.</b>	Emma Palmer
66.Making it Happen		<p>As recognised in the Organisational Transformation paper published in August 2018, the 'Making it Happen' priority needs to be strengthened, therefore it is proposed to add in the following new activities for April 2019 onwards, to compliment the changes already outlined above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To design and implement our digital transformation, setting the map for how the Council will take advantage of digital technologies to transform service delivery through the way we work, how we use information, support our customers, improve resident opportunities and help our businesses to compete.</b></li> <li>• <b>We will continue to embed the council's values and guiding principles (5 ways of working) into strategic and service planning and staff appraisals to encourage staff to think differently, act differently and therefore deliver differently.</b></li> </ul>	

## APPENDIX B



### **2018-19 Annual Review of Vision 2025: Our Corporate Improvement Plan 2018 – 2023**

**Where are we now?  
(Summary of findings)**

## 1. Introduction

The Annual Strategic Review marks the first stage of the council's strategic planning cycle. It draws together key information and presents an analysis of our key strengths and weaknesses in relation to delivery of Vision 2025 Our Corporate Improvement Plan during quarters 1 and 2 of 2018/19. It also identifies opportunities and threats facing the council going forward, including financial, regulatory and policy pressures.

The analysis will support members of the Cabinet and Executive Management Team to consider whether the Well-being objectives and activities currently set within Vision 2025 are still the most relevant for ensuring improved outcomes. The Annual Review of the Vision 2025: Our CIP also gives an opportunity to align financial plans with committed activities within Vision 2025.

### The review analysed the following information:

- Financial overview
- Corporate Performance – Corporate Improvement Plan, Top 20 and Top 5 Service measures
- Customer feedback
- Regulatory Feedback
- Well-being Assessment
- Strategic Risk
- Corporate Legislative requirements
- Well-being of Future Generations Wales Act
- Equalities Act
- Welsh Language Standards
- Brexit
- Environment Wales Act

### The findings should help determine:

- Are the four well-being objectives still the most relevant or have other priorities emerged?
- Are we investing in the right activities? Consider if any activities should be stopped or if there are new activities that should be added to the plan?
- Are we measuring the right indicators to be able to effectively monitor progress and outcomes?
- Is the right level of resource being allocated to the right priorities?
- What are the opportunities for making efficiencies?
- How well is the council's plan supporting national priorities and local partnership plans?
- Is the council's workforce aligned to deliver its key priorities?
- Are we engaging enough with residents and communicating our plan with them? Are there any areas that we need to engage / consult residents on to better inform our plan?



## Key Conclusions

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current priorities and planned activities are responding to many of the issues identified in the Well-being Assessment</li> <li>• At quarter 2 2018/19 62% of planned CIP activities are on track</li> <li>• In 2017-18, we were ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in Wales for performance against a set of national performance accountability measures</li> <li>• No statutory recommendations have been received from regulators during 2018-19</li> <li>• We gained disability level 1 accreditation early in 2018</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35% of CIP performance measures were either Red or Amber at the end of quarter 2, with the majority in Start well and Learning and Skills</li> <li>• 28% of CIP Performance Measures only allow data to be analysed on an annual basis, making it difficult for progress and impact to be monitored throughout the year</li> <li>• No clear project plans and milestones for all the planned activities within current Vision 2025</li> <li>• Contribution towards the Well-being goals is currently assessed as neutral for; A Resilient Wales, A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language and A Globally Responsible Wales</li> <li>• No obvious reference to biodiversity or ecosystem resilience within current CIP (Environment Wales Act - S6 Duty)</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Page 33</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to be a forward-looking, resilient organisation that is committed to sustainability in everything we do</li> <li>• We need to organise our work to deliver local priorities across the county through services planned for long-term resilience and through joined up working with partners</li> <li>• Applying digital strategies to reduce the cost of simple transactions and enabling our customers and staff to do more online</li> <li>• Changing the shape of the Council, with fewer management layers, a smaller workforce with more efficient processes</li> <li>• Developing a more commercial approach in considering how to best use our assets and generate income in the context of our overall strategic objectives and management of risk</li> <li>• Integration of Environment Act S6 Duties into Corporate Planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further recommendations from regulators if improvement isn't prioritised within the Corporate Improvement Plan</li> <li>• Poor performance and delivery against agreed activities if resources are not prioritised within the budget for key transformational projects</li> <li>• Budget pressures mounting to potential £41 shortfall over the next four years</li> <li>• Ten out of the 12 Strategic Risks to the council are marked as Very High or High</li> <li>• Unknown impacts of Brexit</li> <li>• Well-being Assessment - Energy and our environment have been identified as key issues in the long term if no interventions are implemented</li> <li>• Climate change – currently there are no commitments in Vision 2025 to address climate change, however expectations around this are being heightened in line with the WG Decarbonisation Programme (Environment Wales Act 2016) and Climate Change Act 2008</li> </ul>

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## CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

## CABINET EXECUTIVE

5<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**REPORT AUTHOR:** County Councillor Aled Davies  
Portfolio Holder for Finance

**SUBJECT:** High Street and Retail Rates Relief Scheme in Wales  
2019-20

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Welsh Government introduced a temporary Business Rates high street relief scheme back in 2017-18 to support rate-payers within the retail sector in Wales. The scheme also operated during 2018-19.
- 1.2 The Welsh Government have announced that a Business Rates high street and retail rates relief scheme will be available for the financial year 2019-20 to support businesses within the retail sector in Wales. Properties that will benefit from this relief will be occupied retail properties such as shops, pubs and restaurants with a rateable value of £50,000 or less on 1 April 2019.
- 1.3 The funding will be provided by way of a Welsh Government Grant, and the sum of up to **£1,080,000** is being made available to the Council to award to Powys ratepayers during the financial year 2019-20. This funding is a significant increase on previous funds (£155,000) due to Welsh Government extending current scheme to ALL retailers and not restricting to those within a high street, coupled with an increase in maximum relief per ratepayer increasing.
- 1.4 The maximum relief available per property in 2019-20 will be **£2,500**, a substantial increase from the maximum relief available in 2018-19 which was £750.

### 2. Proposal for High Street and Retail Rates Relief Scheme 2019-20

- 2.1 The Welsh Government will provide relief of up to £2,500 to eligible retailers occupying premises with a rateable value of up to £50,000 in the financial year 2019-20, subject to State Aid limits. The relief is available from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.
- 2.2 The high street and retail rates relief can be provided in addition to Small Business Rates Relief, Transitional Relief as well as any hardship or discretionary relief awarded by the local authority. The relief will be applied against the net bill after other reliefs have been applied. Where the net bill after all other reliefs is less than £2,500 the relief granted will be equal to net rates bill for 2019-20. Once the relief has been granted a business rates demand will

be issued showing the amount of relief granted and the reduced liability to pay for 2019-20.

2.3 The relief will be calculated on a daily basis. The following formula will be used to determine the amount of relief to be granted to a property:

- Amount of relief to be granted = **A x (B / C)**

Where:

**A** is the funding amount of £2,500

**B** is the number of days in the financial year that the property is eligible for the relief; and

**C** is the number of days in the financial year.

2.4 Relief will be granted to businesses as a one-off payment based on occupation as at 31 March 2019 (provided the same occupier continues to be in occupation on 1 April 2019).

2.5 Empty properties that become occupied after 1 April 2019 will qualify for the relief. If there is a change in occupier part way through the financial year, after relief has already been provided to the property, the new occupier will qualify for the relief on a pro-rata basis based on the remaining days of occupation using the above formula.

2.6 The scheme will be administered by Powys County Council as a 'reimbursing local authority' that uses discretionary relief powers (under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988). It will be for individual local billing authorities to decide to grant relief under section 47 but the Welsh Government will reimburse local authorities for the relief that is provided (using a grant under s31 of the Local Government Act 2003).

2.7 Unlike previous years, the 2019-20 scheme is not limited to high street premises but will include all properties within Wales meeting the wider retail criteria.

2.8 The high street and retail rates relief scheme qualifying criteria being:

- The rateable value is between £6,001 and £50,000 for the financial year 2019-20
- The property is occupied for retail purposes as at 31 March 2019 ( and same occupier continues to be in occupation on 1 April 2019)
- The property is reasonably accessible to visiting members of the public
- The maximum amount of relief is £2,500 within financial year 2019-20
- Any sum of this award and any other funding must be less than the state aid de minimis (currently 200,000 Euros over a three year period)

2.9 The premises must be wholly or mainly being used as a retail shop, pub, restaurant or cafe. This is a test on use rather than occupation. Therefore properties which are occupied but not wholly or mainly used for retail purposes will not qualify for the relief.

2.10 There are certain types of properties that, in compliance with the Welsh Government guidance, the Council will exclude the ratepayer from high street and retail rates relief, these are as follows:

- The property is not occupied on 1 April 2019
- The property is not reasonably accessible to visiting members of the public (even if there is ancillary use of the property which is retail)
- The property is in receipt of mandatory charitable relief (80%)

In addition, and in compliance with the Welsh Government guidance, the Council will deem that the types of uses below (or those similar in use) are not considered to be high street retail use for the purpose of this relief. Therefore they would not be eligible for the relief. Excluded uses are:

- Financial services (e.g. banks, building societies, cash points / ATMs, bureau de change, payday lenders, betting shops, pawn brokers)
- Medical services (e.g. vets, dentists, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors)
- Professional services (e.g. solicitors, accountants, insurance agents / financial advisers, tutors)
- Post office sorting office
- Tourism accommodation such as B&Bs, hotel accommodation and caravan parks
- Sports clubs
- Children's play centres
- Day nurseries
- Outdoor activity centres
- Gyms
- Kennels and catteries
- Show homes and marketing suites
- Employment agencies

2.11 The Council will be reimbursed in full by Welsh Government for any relief that is awarded, in other words if correctly applied there will be no direct cost to the Council.

2.12 As the scheme has qualifying criteria and awards are to be granted under discretionary relief powers (contained within section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988) it is proposed that:

- Ratepayers who received high street rates relief in 2018-19 and remain in occupation as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 automatically be granted high street and retail rates relief for financial year 2019-20, at appropriate rate.
- New applications (upon receipt of a valid application form for High Street and retail rates relief 2019-20) the decision to award relief be made by the Portfolio Holder for Finance in consultation with the Head of Financial Services, provided all terms of the scheme are met.

2.13 Guidance notes regarding the scheme are shown in **Appendix 1** to this report.

### **3. One Powys Plan**

- 3.1 The high street and retail rates relief scheme for 2019-20 proposes no risk to the Council, and supports the Councils aim to regenerate Town Centres by providing financial support through rates reduction to retailers of commercial premises.

### **4. Options Considered/Available**

Two options to deliver the scheme are available as follows:

- 4.1 Option One – To adopt a high street and retail relief scheme as detailed within section Two, with an automatic award to ratepayers who received the relief in 2018-19, and for the Portfolio holder for Finance in consultation with the Head of Financial Services and (S151 Officer) to make decisions on new applications received which meet all the qualifying criteria of the scheme.
- 4.2 Option Two – To adopt a high street and retail relief scheme as detailed within section Two with an automatic award to ratepayers who received the relief in 2019-20 and for the Income & Awards Senior Manager to make decisions on new applications received which meet all the qualifying criteria of the scheme.

### **5. Preferred Choice and Reasons**

- 5.1 **Option One** is the preferred choice as the relief is to be granted under the local authority's discretionary relief powers contained within section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. This is in-keeping with all other Business Rates discretionary relief decisions taken. Option One will also ensure the Portfolio Holder is involved in the decision making process whilst working within the policy framework with the advice of the statutory S151 Officer.
- 5.2 By automatically granting this relief to rate-payers that received it during 2018-19, will result in 410 businesses receiving £700,000 thus maximising grant expenditure and minimising the administrative burden on both Powys rate-payers and the Local Authority.

### **6. Sustainability and Environmental Issues/Equalities/Crime and Disorder,/Welsh Language/Other Policies etc**

- 6.1 There is no impact on Sustainability and Environmental issues/Equalities or Crime.

### **7. Children and Young People's Impact Statement - Safeguarding and Wellbeing**

- 7.1 There is no impact on children and young people

### **8. Local Member(s)**

- 8.1 The relief scheme in respect of Business Rates will apply equally across the whole County.

## **9. Other Front Line Services**

9.1 Front line services have been made fully aware of the temporary scheme to operate during the financial year 2019-20 and how rate payers may submit an application to be considered for the relief.

## **10. Support Services (Legal, Finance, HR, ICT, BPU)**

10.1 Finance commented: The Finance Manager Environment and Resources notes the contents of the report and that the scheme will be funded by Welsh Government grant.

10.2 Legal : “The recommendations can be supported from a legal point of view”

## **11. Public Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc**

11.1 There are no implications for Public Service Board/Partnerships or stakeholders.

## **12. Corporate Communications**

12.1 Communication Commented, “This issue is of significant public interest and will be promoted widely through all channels including media release and social media.”

## **13. Statutory Officers**

13.1 The Head of Financial Services and Deputy Section 151 officer notes the comments from Finance.

13.2 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer ) commented : “ I note the legal comments and have nothing to add to the report.”

## **14. Members’ Interests**

14.1 The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
<b>1. That a Business Rates High Street and retail rates relief scheme 2019-20 be established in accordance with section 2 of this report.</b>	<b>To adopt a high street and retail rates relief scheme for financial year 2019-20 that meets the requirements to maximise funding available, to support local businesses seeking rate relief and is compliant with Welsh Government guidance.</b>
<b>2. Ratepayers that received high street rates relief in 2018-19 and remain in occupation as at 1 April 2019 be automatically granted this relief for financial year 2019-20.</b>	
<b>3. New applications for Business Rates high street and retail rates</b>	

relief 2019-20 under the scheme referred to above shall be delegated to and determined by the Portfolio holder for Finance in consultation with the Head of Financial Services & Section 151 Officer	
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Relevant Policy (ies):	
Within Policy:	Y
Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	All Members
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	David Morris Senior Manager Income Awards
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	Immediately

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
A M Griffiths	01874 623309		andrewg@powys.gov.uk

**Background Papers used to prepare Report:**

**Appendix 1**

Non-Domestic Rates High Street and Retail Rate Relief in Wales 2019-20 Guidance Note





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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Non-domestic Rates

High Street Rates Relief in Wales - 2018-19

Guidance

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# Non-domestic Rates – High Street Rates Relief

## Guidance

### About this guidance

1. This guidance is intended to support local authorities in administering the High Street Rates Relief scheme (“the relief”) announced by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance on 15 March 2018. This guidance applies to Wales only.
2. This guidance sets out the criteria which the Welsh Government will use to determine the funding for local authorities for relief provided to high street retail properties. The guidance does not replace any existing non-domestic rates legislation or any other relief.
3. Enquiries on the scheme should be sent to:  
[localtaxationpolicy@gov.wales](mailto:localtaxationpolicy@gov.wales)
4. The relief is being offered from 1 April 2018 and will be available until 31 March 2019.

### Introduction

5. This relief is aimed at high street retailers in Wales, for example shops, pubs, restaurants and cafes.
6. The Welsh Government will provide two tiers of non-domestic rates relief, of up to £250 (Tier 1) or up to £750 (Tier 2), to eligible high street retailers occupying premises with a rateable value of £50,000 or less in the financial year 2018-19, subject to State Aid limits.
7. This document provides guidance on the operation and delivery of the scheme.

# Section 1

## High Street Rates Relief

### How will the relief be provided?

8. As this is a temporary measure, we are providing the relief by reimbursing local authorities that use their discretionary relief powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. It will be for individual local authorities to adopt a scheme and decide in each individual case when to grant relief under section 47. The Welsh Government will then reimburse local authorities for the relief that is provided in line with this guidance via a grant under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

### How will the scheme be administered?

9. It will be for local authorities to determine how they wish to administer the scheme to maximise take-up and minimise the administrative burden for ratepayers and for local authority staff. Subject to State Aid considerations set out in paragraphs 29 to 33.
10. Local authorities are responsible for providing ratepayers with clear and accessible information on the details and administration of the scheme. If, for any reason, an authority is unable to provide this relief to eligible ratepayers from 1 April 2018, consideration should be given to notifying eligible ratepayers that they qualify for the relief and that their bills will be recalculated.
11. Local authorities will be asked to identify the total amount of relief provided under the scheme in their Non-Domestic Rates Return (NDR3) for data collection purposes only.

### Which properties will benefit from relief?

12. Properties that will benefit from this relief will be occupied high street properties such as shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments, with a rateable value of £50,000 or less on 1 April 2018. More detailed eligibility criteria and exceptions to the relief are set out in paragraphs 15 to 19.
13. Two tiers of relief will be provided depending on the rateable value of the property, whether liability is increasing from 1 April 2017 as a result of the revaluation and whether the business is already entitled to other Welsh Government support.
14. Relief should be granted to businesses as a one-off payment based on occupation as at 31 March 2018 (provided the same occupier

continues to be in occupation on 1 April 2018). It is recognised that there may be some instances where a local authority is retrospectively notified of a change of occupier. In such cases, if it is clear that the occupier was in occupation on 1 April 2018, the local authority may use its discretion in awarding relief.

**Tier 1 – lower level of support: £250 (or the total remaining liability if this is less than £250)**

Eligible ratepayers will be high street retailers whose properties have a rateable value of between £6,001 and £12,000\* for the financial year 2018-19 and who meet the following criteria:

- In receipt of Small Business Rates Relief (SBRR) on 1 April 2018; and / or
- In receipt of Transitional Relief on 1 April 2018.

\*There will be a small number of ratepayers whose properties have a rateable value of £12,000 or above who are in receipt of Transitional Relief. These ratepayers will qualify for Tier 1 relief.

It is recognised that there may also be a small number of ratepayers whose properties have a rateable value of £12,000 who are not in receipt of Transitional Relief and who are on the very upper threshold of the SBRR taper and hence receive no SBRR relief. Such ratepayers will be eligible for Tier 1 relief.

**Tier 2 – higher level of support: up to £750**

Eligible ratepayers will be high street retailers whose property has a rateable value between £12,001 and £50,000 for the financial year 2018-19 and who meet the following criteria:

- Not in receipt of SBRR or Transitional Relief on 1 April 2018; and
- Have an increase in their liability on 1 April 2017 as a result of the 2017 Revaluation.

15. It is intended that, for the purposes of this scheme, high street properties such as, “shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments” will mean the following (subject to the other criteria in this guidance).

**i. Hereditaments that are being used for the sale of goods to visiting members of the public**

- Shops (such as florists, bakers, butchers, grocers, greengrocers, jewellers, stationers, off-licences, newsagents, hardware stores, supermarkets, etc)
- Opticians
- Pharmacies
- Post offices
- Furnishing shops or display rooms (such as carpet shops, double glazing, garage doors)
- Car or caravan showrooms
- Second hand car lots
- Markets
- Petrol stations
- Garden centres
- Art galleries (where art is for sale or hire)

**ii. Hereditaments that are being used for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public**

- Hair and beauty services
- Shoe repairs or key cutting
- Travel agents
- Ticket offices, eg. for theatre
- Dry cleaners
- Launderettes
- PC, TV or domestic appliance repair
- Funeral directors
- Photo processing
- DVD or video rentals
- Tool hire
- Car hire
- Cinemas
- Estate and letting agents

**iii. Hereditaments that are being used for the sale of food and / or drink to visiting members of the public**

- Restaurants
- Drive-through or drive-in restaurants
- Takeaways
- Sandwich shops
- Cafés
- Coffee shops
- Pubs
- Wine Bars

16. To qualify for the relief a hereditament listed in (i) to (iii) should be wholly or mainly used as a shop, restaurant, café or drinking establishment. This is a test on use rather than occupation. Therefore, hereditaments which are occupied but not wholly or mainly used for the qualifying purpose will not qualify for the relief.
17. The above list is not intended to be exhaustive as it would be impossible to list all the many and varied high street retail uses that exist. There will also be mixed uses. However, it is intended to be a guide for local authorities as to the types of uses that the Welsh Government considers for this purpose to be high street and retail. Local authorities should determine for themselves whether particular properties not listed are broadly similar in nature to those above and, if so, to consider them eligible for the relief. Conversely, properties that are not broadly similar in nature to those listed above should not be eligible for the relief.
18. As the grant of the relief is discretionary, local authorities may choose not to grant the relief if they consider that appropriate, for example where granting the relief would go against the local authority's wider objectives for the local area.

### **Types of hereditaments that are not considered to be eligible for High Street Rates Relief**

19. The list below sets out the types of uses that the Welsh Government does not consider to be high street retail use for the purpose of this relief and would not be deemed eligible for the relief. However, it will be for local authorities to determine if hereditaments are similar in nature to those listed below and if they would not be eligible for relief under the scheme.
- i. *Hereditaments that are being used wholly or mainly for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public***
- Financial services (eg. banks, building societies, cash points, ATMs, bureaux de change, payday lenders, betting shops, pawn brokers)
  - Medical services (eg. vets, dentists, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors)
  - Professional services (eg. solicitors, accountants, insurance agents, financial advisers, tutors)
  - Post office sorting office
  - Tourism accommodation, eg. B&Bs, hotel accommodation and caravan parks
  - Sports clubs
  - Children's play centres
  - Day nurseries
  - Outdoor activity centres
  - Gyms

- Kennels and catteries
- Show homes and marketing suites
- Employment agencies

There are a number of further types of hereditaments which the Welsh Government believes should not be eligible for the High Street Relief Scheme.

**ii. *Hereditaments with a rateable value of more than £50,000***

It is recognised there are some high street retail businesses with rateable value above the £50,000 relief who will not be eligible for this relief. However, local authorities have the option to use their discretionary powers to offer discounts outside this scheme to such businesses if it is in the interests of the local community to do so.

**iii. *Hereditaments that are not reasonably accessible to visiting members of the public***

If a hereditament is not reasonably accessible to visiting members of the public, it will be ineligible for relief under the scheme even if there is ancillary use of the hereditament that might be considered to fall within the descriptions in paragraph 15 (i), (ii) or (iii).

**iv. *Hereditaments that are in out-of-town retail parks or industrial estates***

What constitutes a high street retailer will vary significantly across local authority areas and it is left to the discretion of authorities to determine this based on their local areas. However, hereditaments in out-of-town retail parks and industrial estates are not considered to constitute the high street for the purposes of this relief even if there is ancillary use of the hereditament that might be considered to fall within the descriptions in paragraph 15 (i), (ii) or (iii). As the grant of the relief is discretionary, it is for authorities to determine for themselves whether particular properties constitute a high-street retailer.

**v. *Hereditaments that are not occupied***

Properties that are not occupied on 1 April 2018 should be excluded from this relief. However, under the Empty Property Relief scheme, empty properties will receive a 100% reduction in rates for the first three months (and in certain cases six) of being empty.

**vi. *Hereditaments that are in receipt of mandatory charitable rates relief***

These properties already receive mandatory charitable relief which gives an 80% reduction in liability and authorities may also choose to provide discretionary charitable relief which can reduce the remaining liability to nil. As such, these properties will not be eligible for High Street Rate Relief.



## **How much relief will be available?**

20. The total amount of government funded relief available for each property for 12 months under this scheme is up to £250 for Tier 1 properties and up to £750 for Tier 2 properties.
21. This relief can be provided in addition to SBRR and Transitional Relief. High Street Rates Relief should be applied against the net bill after these two reliefs have been applied. Any hardship or discretionary relief awarded by the local authority should be considered by the local authority once all other rates reliefs have been awarded.
22. The eligibility for the relief and the relief itself will be assessed and calculated on a daily basis. The following formula should be used to determine the amount of relief to be granted for a particular hereditament in the financial year:
- $$\text{Amount of relief to be granted} = A \times (B / C)$$
- Where:  
A is the funding amount for Tier 1 or Tier 2  
B is the number of days in the financial year that the hereditament is eligible for relief; and  
C is the number of days in the financial year
23. When calculating the relief, if the net liability before High Street Rates Relief is £250 or less for Tier 1 or £750 or less for Tier 2, the maximum amount of this relief will be no more than the value of the net rate liability. This should be calculated ignoring any prior year adjustments in liabilities which fall to be liable on the day.
24. Ratepayers that occupy more than one property will be entitled to High Street Rates Relief for each of their eligible properties, subject to State Aid de minimis limits.

## **Changes to existing hereditaments, including change in occupier**

25. Eligibility for the relief will be calculated based on the circumstances of the property and ratepayer as at 1 April 2018. Changes to properties which occur after this date will have no impact on eligibility for this relief.
26. Empty properties becoming occupied after 1 April 2018 will not qualify for this relief.
27. If there is a change in occupier part way through the financial year, after relief has already been provided to the hereditament, the new occupier will not qualify for the relief.

28. This treatment is intended to simplify the administration of the scheme but also reflects that the relief is to help support those affected by the revaluation. It is assumed that the rateable values for properties being occupied after 1 April 2018 will have been known in advance of occupation and would have been taken into account prior to occupation.

## State Aid

29. State Aid law is the means by which the European Union regulates state funded support to businesses. Providing discretionary relief to ratepayers is likely to amount to State Aid. High Street Rates Relief will be State Aid compliant where it is provided in accordance with the De Minimis Regulation (1407/2013).
30. The De Minimis Regulation allows an undertaking to receive up to €200,000 of De Minimis aid in a three-year period (consisting of the current financial year and the two previous financial years). Local authorities should familiarise themselves with the terms of this State Aid exemption, in particular the types of undertaking that are excluded from receiving De Minimis aid, the relevant definition of undertaking and the requirement to convert the aid into Euros.
31. To administer De Minimis it is necessary for the local authority to establish that the award of aid will not result in the undertaking having received more than €200,000 of De Minimis aid. Note that the threshold only relates to aid provided under the De Minimis Regulations (aid under other exemptions or outside the scope of State Aid is not relevant to the De Minimis calculation).
32. Section 3 of this guidance contains a sample De Minimis declaration which local authorities may wish to use. Where local authorities have further questions about De Minimis or other aspects of State Aid law, they should seek advice from their legal department in the first instance.
33. Desk instructions covering the administration of De Minimis schemes are available at:

<http://gov.wales/funding/state-aid/de-minimis-aid/?lang=en>

[http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state\\_aid/legislation/de\\_minimis\\_regulation\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/legislation/de_minimis_regulation_en.pdf)

## Section 2 – State Aid

### Sample paragraphs that could be included in letters to ratepayers about High Street Rates Relief for 2018-19

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance announced on 13 December 2017 that an additional £5 million of funding would be available to extend the High Street Rates Relief scheme for 2018-19.

Relief of up to £750 will be provided to eligible occupied retail properties with a rateable value of £50,000 or less in 2018-19. Your current rates bill includes this High Street Rates Relief.

Awards such as High Street Rates Relief are required to comply with the EU law on State Aid<sup>1</sup>. In this case, this involves returning the attached declaration to this authority if you have received any other De Minimis State Aid, including any other High Street Rates Relief you are being granted for premises other than the one to which this bill and letter relates, and confirming that the award of High Street Rates Relief does not exceed the €200,000 an undertaking<sup>2</sup> can receive under the De Minimis Regulations EC 1407/2013.

Please complete the declaration and return it to the address above. In terms of declaring previous De Minimis aid, we are only interested in public support which is De Minimis aid (State Aid received under other exemptions or public support which is not State Aid does not need to be declared).

If you have not received any other De Minimis State Aid, including any other High Street Rates Relief you are being granted for premises other than the one to which this bill and letter relates, you do not need to complete or return the declaration.

If you wish to refuse to receive the High Street Rates Relief granted in relation to the premises to which this bill and letter relates, please complete the attached form and return it to the address above. You do not need to complete the declaration. This may be particularly relevant to those premises that are part of a large retail chain, where the cumulative total of High Street Rates Relief received could exceed €200,000.

Under the European Commission rules, you must retain this letter for three years from the date on this letter and produce it on any request by the UK public authorities or the European Commission. (You may need to keep this letter longer than three years for other purposes). Furthermore, information on this aid must be supplied to any other public authority or agency asking for information on 'De Minimis' aid for the next three years.

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1. Further information on State Aid law can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/state-aid>

2 An undertaking is an entity which is engaged in economic activity. This means that it puts goods or services on a given market. The important thing is what the entity does, not its status. Thus a charity or not for profit company can be undertakings if they are involved in

economic activities. A single undertaking will normally encompass the business group rather than a single company within a group. Article 2.2 of the de minimis Regulations (Commission Regulation EC/ 1407/2013) defines the meaning of 'single undertaking'.

**'De Minimis' declaration**

Dear [ ]

NON-DOMESTIC RATES ACCOUNT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

The value of the non-domestic rates High Street Rates Relief to be provided to [name of undertaking] by [name of local authority] is £ [ ] (Euros [ ]).

This award shall comply with the EU law on State Aid on the basis that, including this award, [name of undertaking] shall not receive more than €200,000 in total of De Minimis aid within the current financial year or the previous two financial years). The De Minimis Regulations 1407/2013(as published in the Official Journal of the European Union L352 24.12.2013) can be found at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:352:0001:0008:EN:PDF>.

Amount of De Minimis aid	Date of aid	Organisation providing aid	Nature of aid
€	1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019	Local authorities (for the High Street Rates Relief total, you do not need to specify the names of individual authorities)	High Street Rates Relief

I confirm that:

1) I am authorised to sign on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_[name of undertaking]; and

2) \_\_\_\_\_[name of undertaking] shall not exceed its De Minimis threshold by accepting this High Street Rates Relief.

SIGNATURE:

NAME:

POSITION:

BUSINESS:

ADDRESS:

DATE:

**Refusal of High Street Rates Relief form**

Name and address of premises	Non-domestic rates account number	Amount of High Street Rates Relief

I confirm that I wish to refuse High Street Rates Relief in relation to the above premises.

I confirm that I am authorised to sign on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ [name of undertaking].

SIGNATURE:

NAME:

POSITION:

BUSINESS:

ADDRESS:

DATE:

## CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE  
5th March 2019

**REPORT AUTHOR:** County Councillor Aled Davies  
Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport

**SUBJECT:** Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 A Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) is a statutory document as contained within s.60 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, and every Local Authority is obliged to prepare and implement a ROWIP.
- 1.2 The ROWIP sets out how the Council is to manage and improve the public rights of way network.

**2. Proposal**

- 2.1 The Proposal is set out as the Draft ROWIP within Appendix 1 and its associated appendices.
- 2.2 The report seeks Cabinet's approval and decision for the Draft ROWIP following conclusion of a 3 month consultation process. The Key Findings Report of the consultation is set out in Appendix 2. According to the Council's constitution, the ROWIP will require final approval by full Council.

**3. Options Considered / Available**

- 3.1 There are no other options available. The County Council has a legal obligation and duty to prepare and publish a ROWIP.

**4. Preferred Choice and Reasons**

- 4.1 That Cabinet approves the Draft ROWIP.
- 4.2. In addition to the Draft ROWIP, a "Delivery Plan" will be published, which consists of:
- a) An Evaluation of Progress in delivering the ROWIP and previous Action Plans.
  - b) A Review of Policies.
  - c) Work Plan.

- 4.3 It is not necessary to consult on the Delivery Plan at this stage, as this is technically a separate document that can only be developed once the ROWIP has been adopted by full Council. This has been verified by Welsh Government.

**5. Impact Assessment**

- 5.1 Is an impact assessment required? Yes/No

- 5.2 If yes is it attached? Yes/No

**6. Corporate Improvement Plan**

- 6.1 The Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan (Section 1.5) highlights how the Council's Vision 2025 will be supported, and therefore its Corporate Improvement Plan.

**7. Local Member(s)**

- 7.1 The Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan applies to the whole County.

**8. Other Front Line Services**

Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council? Yes/No

- 8.1 The affected front line services have already been consulted, namely Planning Services, Highways Transport and Recycling, Regeneration Services, Active Travel Officers. Section 7 highlights how the draft ROWIP interacts with its internal and external partners. No specific comments from the Services have been received.

**9. Communications**

Have Communications seen a copy of this report? Yes/No

This report is of public interest and requires a news release and use of appropriate social media to publicise Cabinet's decision.

If the recommendation is approved, the statutory consultation will also be of public interest and will need publicising via a news release and appropriate social media.



**10. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)**

- 10.1 Legal – Professional Lead supports the proposals to adopt the ROWIP to ensure compliance with a statutory obligation.
- 10.2 Finance - The contents of the report are noted with the costs contained within existing budgets.
- 10.3 Corporate Property (if appropriate) Not required.
- 10.4 HR (if appropriate) – Not required.
- 10.5 ICT (if appropriate) – Not required.

**11. Scrutiny**

Has this report been scrutinised?                      Yes / ~~No~~?

- 11.1 The Scrutiny Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 commented on the ROWIP before the 3 month consultation took place. There has not been any fundamental changes as a result of the consultation. The comments and observations of Scrutiny Committee are included as Appendix 3.
- 11.2 The Draft ROWIP has been amended following Scrutiny to elaborate on the Council’s approach on least restrictive access.
- 11.3 The Draft ROWIP has also been amended within Section 3.14 to make the document easier to read, as recommended.
- 11.4 Scrutiny also recommended that an executive-style summary document be provided for easy reference once the ROWIP has been adopted. This will be completed once Full Council approve the Draft ROWIP.
- 11.5 Scrutiny also made an observation as to the value of improving relationships with Building Control, so as to prevent unauthorised development over public rights of way.

**12. Data Protection**

If the proposal involves the processing of personal data then the Data Protection Officer must be consulted and their comments set out below.

**13. Statutory Officers**

The views of both the Strategic Director Resources (Section 151 Officer) and the Monitoring Officer **must** be set out below

The S151 Officer notes the comments made by Finance.

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) commented as follows:  
 “ I note the legal comments and have nothing to add to the report.”

#### 14. **Members’ Interests**

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
To approve the Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan set out in appendix 1 to the report and to recommend approval to full Council.	For the Council to uphold its statutory duty to review the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>			
<b>Within Policy:</b>	Y	<b>Within Budget:</b>	Y

<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	None
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<b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>	Mark Stafford-Tolley
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>	Effective immediately

<b>Is a review of the impact of the decision required?</b>	N
--	---

<b>Contact Officer:</b> Mark Stafford-Tolley
<b>Tel:</b> 01597 827677
<b>Email:</b> mark.stafford-tolley@powys.gov.uk

#### **Background Papers used to prepare Report:**

Guidance for Local Authorities on Rights of Way Improvement Plans – July 2016. Welsh Government.

Appendices:

1. Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
2. Key Findings Report.
3. Scrutiny Committee Report
4. Impact Assessment

# Powys Rights of Way Improvement Plan

## Foreword

I am delighted to deliver the Rights of Way Improvement Plan to the people of Powys. Following extensive consultation with the public, landholders, users, Town and Community Councils and many others, a number of amendments have been made to the draft plan so as to incorporate many of the suggestions put forward. It is clear that countryside access is an important issue, and a highly valued asset to the people of Powys and those who visit the county.

The Council's Vision as set out in Vision 2025 highlights four priority themes. This Plan clearly addresses those themes directly and sets out various statements of action to deliver them. As such, engagement with this Plan will make a real and meaningful contribution to all of the Council's key objectives.

This plan presents the Council's aspirations regarding countryside access for the next decade. I am confident it will serve to progress real improvements in access across Powys.

County Councillor Aled Davies  
Portfolio holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport

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# Vision

The provision of high quality green space and public access to Powys' countryside and support for its biodiversity and heritage is at the heart of the work of Countryside Services. Public rights of way and Access land offer unrivalled opportunities for the enjoyment of the Powys countryside.

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan is the means by which Powys County Council will plan and prioritise resources to the current public access available in the county, and will assist others in Powys in developing an accessible countryside. The Plan will set out the priorities and objectives for the future.

The vision of this Plan is to have a well-utilised, well-managed, meaningful and accessible countryside across Powys, supported by high quality information. To achieve this vision, four themes have been identified which broadly address the areas of improvement that will be targeted. These themes are:

- Theme A    Public Rights of Way and Open Air Recreation
- Theme B    Management and Enforcement of Public Rights of Way and Green Spaces
- Theme C    Definitive Map and Statement
- Theme D    Publicity and Promotion

# Executive Summary

This Rights of Way Improvement Plan has been reviewed and produced as a statutory document under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The Plan has sought the needs and aspirations of landholders, users and non-users of Powys' public rights of way network, Access land and public green space. The wealth of information has been looked at in conjunction with an assessment of the network, its current condition, and set against a backdrop of other national and local strategies and plans. This information will be used to set out a framework for improving access to the countryside for the next 10 years.

Consultation has considered a number of dilemma questions, focussed on how the public rights of way network is to be prioritised in the future. Responses from the consultation has made it clear that the removal of obstructions, and providing clear waymarking to provide confidence for the user in using public rights of way in the countryside is of paramount importance. The development of local circular trails rather than long distance walks has proved to be popular with consultees, as has increasing the role of volunteers in opening up public rights of way, and in their long-term management.

How public rights of way are to be managed was a question in the consultation, and this was evenly split between keeping a Priority Community Approach and providing each individual path with a rating of importance. In liaison with the Local Access Forum, developing a network, and therefore some form of priority community approach was deemed to be essential in developing a network of useable routes. As a result of feedback, the Service has developed the "Priority Project Approach" that takes account of the demand from the community amongst other variables, and will concentrate on developing a network in that area.

Powys' Recreational Trails (including National Trails) are well received with strong support for maintaining and improving infrastructure and information on the existing trails. There was only limited support for creating new long distance routes in Powys, with much more importance placed on developing local, accessible routes. However, respondents felt that equal priority should be given to recreational trails as with other public rights of way.

Consultation has shown that the public rights of way network currently provides the poorest access opportunities for those with mobility or sensory difficulties. Following discussions with local disability groups, the ‘least restrictive’ working practice was again endorsed affecting all areas of countryside access work, from the installation of path furniture to the production of information leaflets.

The proposals in this Plan support the goals of key national and local strategies, particularly those relating to:

- Supporting the local economy
- Improving the Nations’ and Residents health and well-being, and
- Creating a more sustainable environment

The Plan also sets out how it will contribute towards key objectives in the County Council’s Cabinet Vision 2025 and the Public Service Board’s 2040 Vision. Working with internal and external partners will be crucial to achieving these aims and goals.

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# **Section 1 Rights of Way Improvement - Context**

## **1.1 Introduction**

Powys County Council as the local Highway Authority is required under Section 60 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) to publish a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP). This ROWIP sets out how the Council will seek to manage the public rights of way network for the benefit of the residents and landowners of Powys, as well as visitors to the area over the next ten years.

ROWIPs are the prime means by which local highway authorities should identify, prioritise and plan for improvements to local rights of way and set out how they will approach their day to day management; and in doing so make better provision for the public to enjoy a range of outdoor recreation activities.<sup>1</sup>

Part of the county of Powys, and its public rights of way network, lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. After agreement with its constituent County Councils, the National Park Authority has undertaken its own ROWIP. Countryside Services Officers from Powys County Council have been involved and consulted throughout their ROWIP process.

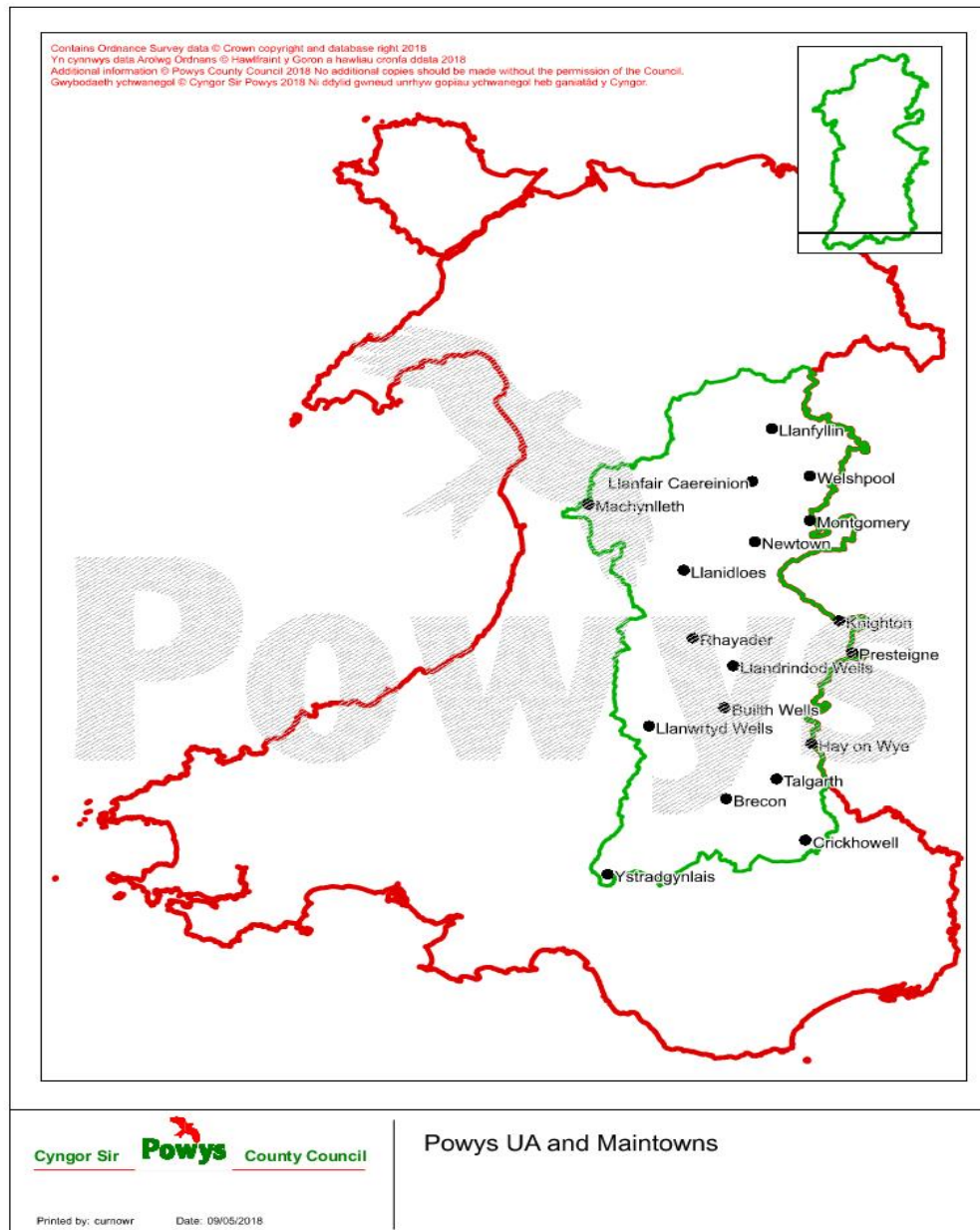
## **1.2 The County of Powys**

Powys is an extensive, largely upland county covering 2,000 square miles (5,180 square kilometres), about a quarter of Wales. With a population of only 1 person for every 10 acres (4 hectares), it is one of the most sparsely populated local authority areas in England and Wales.

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<sup>1</sup> Welsh Assembly Government, *Guidance for Local Authorities on Rights of Way Improvement Plans* July 2016.

## Map 1 – The County of Powys



The county has tremendous landscape assets; from the Berwyn Mountains in the north, through the rolling hills of the Radnor Forest to the dramatic Brecon Beacons National Park in the south; it also includes some of Britain's most spectacular river valleys – the Severn, Wye and Usk.

Powys has high levels of self-employment and a high number of micro businesses. The public sector accounts for 29% of the workforce, with 9% of the population employed in agriculture, forestry or fishing compared to the

Welsh average which is only 2.3%.<sup>2</sup> Powys also has the highest car ownership in Wales, with only 15% of households not owning a car or van.<sup>3</sup>

The population of Powys is 132,160<sup>4</sup> and has been falling since 2011, and 18.5% of the population classify themselves as being a Welsh Speaker.<sup>5</sup>

### **1.3 Powys County Council**

Powys County Council is a Welsh Unitary Authority with 73 elected Councillors. It is relatively young, having been first created as a County Council in 1974, and then merged with its constituent district councils to become a Unitary Authority in 1996. The new Authority also took in three communities from the former Clwyd Council. Other minor boundary amendments have since added to the area of Powys. However, its roots are deep, with the three constituent shires - Brecknockshire, Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire stretching back centuries.

As a Unitary Authority, the Council is responsible for all local government services in the county, including education, social care, roads and bridges, leisure services, tourism and planning. The Council employs around 4100 full time equivalent staff and has a huge impact on the local economy, both by being its largest employer and by spending more than half of its £436 million turnover within the county.

Powys County Council is managed by the County Councillors, and they have overall responsibility for making decisions. As in central government, the Council is led by the Cabinet with Council Officers providing the executive support.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: 2017 ONS Annual Population Survey © Crown Copyright

<sup>3</sup> Source: ONS 2011 Census of Population © Crown Copyright

<sup>4</sup> Source: ONS 2016 Mid Year Population Estimate © Crown Copyright

<sup>5</sup> Source: Persons aged 3+ 2011 ONS Census of Population © Crown Copyright

## **1.4 Public Rights of Way and Countryside Access in Powys**

A public right of way (PRoW) is a term that refers to a public highway over which the public have a right to pass and repass. In total, the county of Powys has over 9,250 km of public rights of way.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 also created areas where there is public access on foot, called Access land. This land includes all registered common land as well as mountain, moor, heath and down. In addition, Natural Resources Wales has dedicated most of the land within its control as Access land. In total there are 150,000 hectares of Access land in Powys.

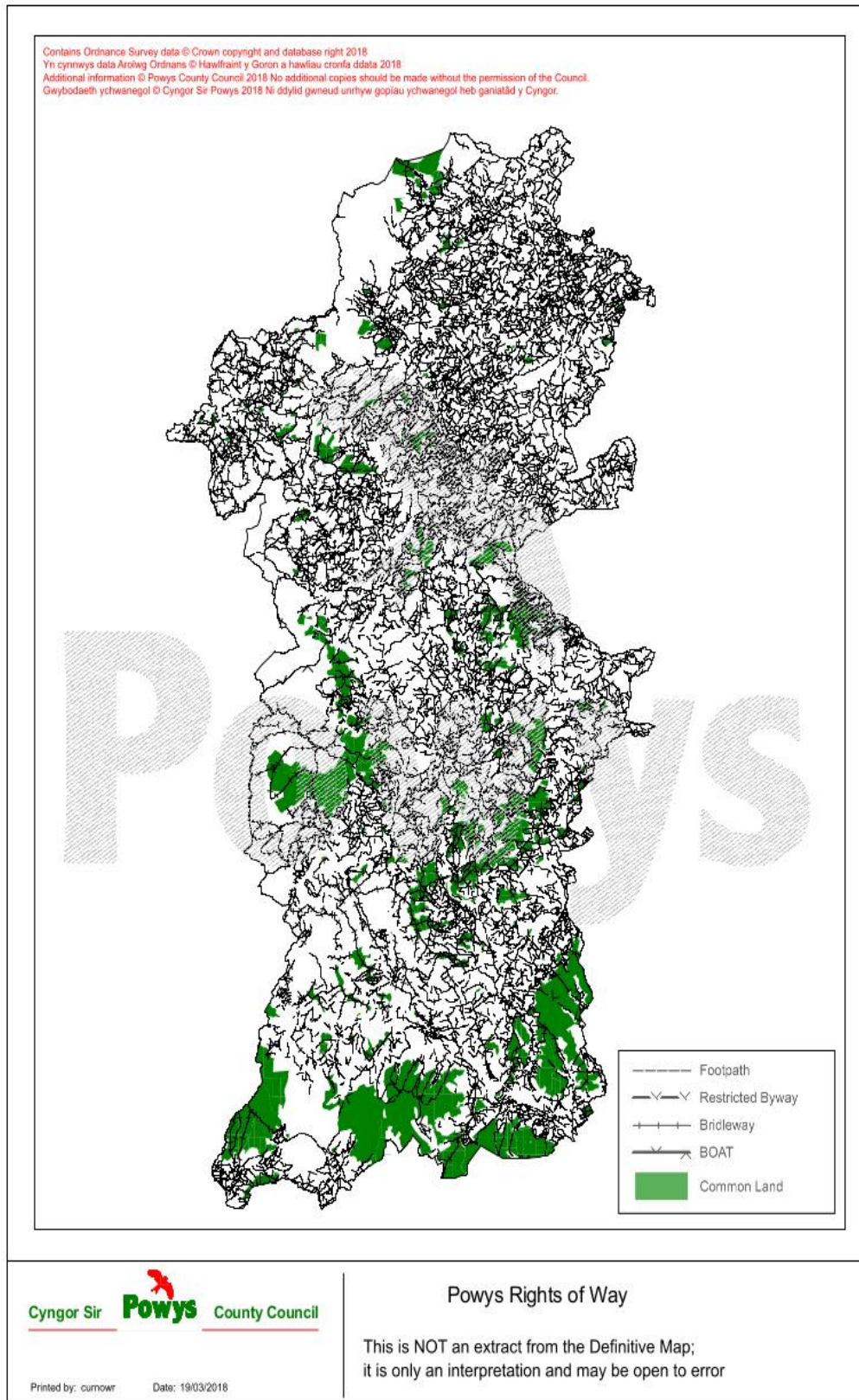
Map 2 shows the distribution of linear and area access in Powys. Included on this map is access provided by organisations outside of Powys County Council, such as the Elan Valley Trust, Wildlife Trusts and others. It must be noted that the data is not comprehensive, due to the difficulties in obtaining and capturing all of the data from various sources.

Public rights of way and Access land are the main means by which people can access the countryside of Powys. The importance of this network to the economy and tourism was more fully realised following the Foot and Mouth outbreak in 2001, when access was temporarily removed. Increasingly, the value of the network for improving people's health and well-being has been recognised in primary legislation; and consequently within the ROWIP.

There are a number of public rights of way in the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority within Powys, and the Council currently delegates responsibility to the National Park Authority to manage the public rights of way within their boundary.

For the purposes of clarity, whilst the delegated responsibility remains in place, this Rights of Way Improvement Plan is for the area of Powys that is outside of the National Park Authority boundary.

## Map 2 Access Map of Powys





## 1.5 The Council's Strategic Priorities and Targets

The key strategic document for the Council is the Cabinet's 2025 Vision. This sets out the vision of the Council, and is designed to create an integrated, strategic transformational plan. There are 4 high level priorities, which are as follows:

1. **The Economy**
2. **Health and Care**
3. **Learning and Skills**
4. **Residents and Communities**

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan will enable Countryside Services to meet the four priorities of the Council as follows:

### **The Economy**

- The PRoW, national and recreational trail networks and green space provide a valuable tourism resource for the county, attracting visitors and their money to the area. This has positive benefits for local businesses.
- The economic opportunities provided by access to the countryside should not be underestimated. For example, it has been estimated that the Wales Coast Path alone accounted for an additional £33.2 million of direct spending in Wales in 2011/12, and a further £32.3 million in 2012/13, and has led to the creation of 28.2 FTE jobs.<sup>6</sup> Although only a short section of the Wales Coast Path is within Powys, it shows the economic benefits of what a trail can achieve.
- Tourism is a very important industry in Wales, and people will spend money when taking part in outdoor recreation. "In total, £5.6 billion was spent during visits to the outdoors for recreation by people living in Wales."<sup>7</sup>
- Within the Activity Tourism sector, walking plays an increasingly significant role. "Walking as an activity generates £562 million of additional demand in the Welsh economy, and around 11,980 person years of employment"<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.walescoastpath.gov.uk/media/1153/wales-coast-path-end-of-project-report-2007-2013.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey 2016 - Key facts Summary report page 18

<sup>8</sup> Economic Impact of walking and hillwalking in Wales. Cardiff Business School, 2011

- The top activity visitors undertake is walking more than two miles (28%), with around half (48%) visiting Powys to enjoy the landscape and countryside.<sup>9</sup>
- For those giving reasons for visiting Wales in 2016, 56% cited the landscape, countryside or beach as a reason. In Powys, this figure increases to 68%. They were also more likely to mention taking part in outdoor or sporting activities as a reason for visiting at 41%, compared to the Wales average of 25%.<sup>10</sup>
- Peter Midmore's 2000 report into the '*Economic Value of Walking in Wales*' estimates the income from walking in rural Wales at £55 million and concludes that this supports 3,000 jobs.<sup>11</sup>
- The total contribution to economic activity (all outdoor activity tourism) in Wales is £481 million. The data suggests that outdoor activity tourism contributes in the region of £302 million to North Wales, as much as the South East and South West combined. Mid Wales is estimated to receive the lowest share of overall impact, within the region of £91 million.<sup>12</sup> The figure for mid Wales could easily be increased if the condition of the public rights of way network in Powys was to improve.
- Many Powys businesses rely on an open and easy-to-use PRow for their livelihood, or to supplement a farming income. Some examples of this include the many B&Bs associated with the National and Recreational Trails, pony trekking centres, walking holiday companies, mountain bike hire, Adventure centres and equestrian B&Bs.
- The Service also employs a number of contractors to undertake works, and they are in the majority of cases locally sourced.
- Walkers are Welcome status is increasing in settlements across Powys, and this is a recognition of what benefits walking brings to the town's economy.
- In a speech to local authorities in 2005, the WLGA Countryside

<sup>9</sup> Wales Visitor Survey 2013 – Powys Booster, Strategic Marketing

<sup>10</sup> Research Report – Wales Visitor Survey – Powys County Council, Beaufort Research, 2016

<sup>11</sup> Midmore, *The Economic Value of Walking in Rural Wales*, Welsh Institute of Rural Studies, 2000.

<sup>12</sup> The Economic Impact of Outdoor Activity Tourism in Wales (Final Report) Visit Wales March 2014 (page 45).

Spokes-person Powys County Councillor M. Jones stated that ‘*every Rights of Way Officer is worth one million pounds to the Welsh Economy*’. By opening up and improving the PRow network within an area, Officers are improving infrastructure, encouraging business development and helping to improve the wealth of the community in monetary and non-monetary ways.<sup>13</sup>

## Health and Care

- By encouraging more people to be active and to utilise the PRow network and green space, we can help to improve the health and well-being of both the inhabitants of Powys and visitors attracted to the area.
- Physical activity is known to benefit physical and mental health and well-being. It improves mood and reduces stress, increases confidence and stamina and helps people relax and sleep better. In the latest national survey, only 54% of adults in Wales were active for at least 150 minutes per week (i.e. at least 5 x 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity per week for adults), with 59% classed as overweight or obese.<sup>14</sup>
- Leisure facilities and accessible outdoor spaces for activity and recreation are an essential component of a modern, vibrant and physically active society.<sup>15</sup>
- The importance of recreational access for health and well-being is widely acknowledged. The 2013/14 annual report of the Chief Medical Officer for Wales draws clear associations between activity and health stating: “It has been estimated that the cost of physical inactivity to Wales is around £650 million per year. Regular physical activity such as walking and cycling has significant benefits for health including lowering the risk of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, colon and breast cancer, and depression.”<sup>16</sup>
- PRow and other green space is a free resource that is legally available widely across the county. The majority of people living in Powys have access to green space or a public right of way within a few minutes’ walk of their home. However, the current condition of the public rights of way

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<sup>13</sup> Report to CCW, The Tourism Company, *The Benefits to Business of the National Trails in Wales*, March 2006.

<sup>14</sup> National Survey for Wales 2016/17.

<sup>15</sup> Getting Wales Moving. A Joint Report by Public Health Wales and Sport Wales. 28 March 2017.

<sup>16</sup> <http://gov.wales/docs/dhss/report/140929cmoreporten.pdf>

network is impacting on the ability of residents to improve their health and well-being by accessing the countryside.

- By providing and promoting recreational trails and shorter circular walks, we are offering high quality routes for local people and tourists to utilise.
- Walking in particular, requires in the main little or no specialised equipment.
- Cycling and horse-riding are very good forms of exercise.
- Activities on PRow and other green space provide the opportunity to meet other people which can help individuals feel part of their community, thereby reducing isolation and improving well-being.
- The work of the Countryside Services Volunteer Coordinator provides an opportunity for people to get active and learn new skills, through the practical installation of path furniture and surface clearance. Volunteers can improve their physical health and mental well-being as well as the potential to reduce the onset of rural isolation when meeting new like-minded people.

### **Learning and Skills**

- By providing literature, leaflets, booklets and interpretation boards along routes, Countryside Services is providing learning opportunities for both users and potential users of promoted routes.
- People who access the countryside have the opportunity to learn about the landscape and wildlife around them.
- By providing apprenticeships in managing public access and green space, and how this can contribute to a land-based qualification.
- Provide training and up-skilling opportunities for the volunteer workforce.
- Countryside Services provide important information on PRow, commons and Access land to landholders, forestry and woodland owners, users and developers.

## **Residents and Communities**

- Many Powys businesses rely on an open and easy-to-use PRow for their livelihood, or to supplement a farming income. Some examples of this include the many B&Bs associated with the National and Recreational Trails, pony trekking centres, walking holiday companies, mountain bike hire, Adventure centres and equestrian B&Bs.
- The aim of Countryside Services is for work to be sympathetic to the local environment using sustainable, local products wherever possible. Where there are alternative approaches, Countryside Services will choose the most sustainable.
- The identification and undertaking of practical works by a community group e.g. community council, or constituted cluster group is considered to be important, and has many benefits. As such, and where possible the setting up and assistance to a community group should be a priority for the Service.

### **1.6 Local Well-Being Assessments and Plans**

The Well-Being and Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty for the Council to produce well-being assessments and plans, as well as the general duty to carry out sustainable development. There are seven goals as defined in the Act, which are:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales

The well-being plan and assessment underpins the Public Service Board's 2040 vision which provides strategic direction to the statutory partners, being the County Council, Natural Resources Wales, Powys Teaching Health Board and the Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

The Public Service Board's local objectives within the 2040 vision are:

- 1. People in Powys will experience a stable and thriving economy.**
- 2. People in Powys will enjoy a sustainable and productive environment.**
- 3. People in Powys will be healthy, socially motivated and responsible.**
- 4. People in Powys will be connected to resilient communities and a vibrant culture.**

Much like the Cabinet's 2025 vision, the Rights of Way Improvement Plan cuts across all of the Public Service Board's objectives, with specific reference to adventure tourism (walking holidays and active recreational activity) and rights of way offering safe circular walks and cycle routes for all to enjoy.

Further details of the seven goals are provided in the impact assessment for the ROWIP.

## **1.7 Active Travel**

Public rights of way, being minor public highways have a part to play in contributing to active travel, under the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. The Act requires local authorities in Wales to produce active travel maps and deliver year on year improvements in active travel routes and facilities for both walking and cycling. As a result, there should be a strong relationship with active travel planners to identify local public rights of way that can play a part in providing safe and appropriate active travel routes.

Although active travel within the urban areas of key settlements may well be a priority, public rights of way within a 45 minutes travel distance of each key settlement also have a part to play to improve provision for active travel.

The Existing and Integrated Network Maps for Active Travel have been developed through comprehensive stakeholder engagement, and reflect the routes and developments Powys residents/stakeholders asked for.

In Powys, there are 11 designated Active Travel key settlements. These are:-

- Brecon
- Builth Wells
- Crickhowell
- Knighton
- Llandrindod Wells
- Llanidloes
- Machynlleth
- Newtown
- Presteigne
- Welshpool
- Ystradgynlais

The Council, in conjunction with Welsh Government has a rolling programme of improvements in Active Travel Infrastructure, through a series of Grants (Safe Routes in Communities and Local Transport Fund). Significant investment has been implemented in Ystradgynlais, Newtown, Llandrindod Wells, Presteigne and Llanfyllin; with further work anticipated for Newtown in 2018-19.

This infrastructure provides additional network that complements and connects to existing public rights of way.

Powys is also at the heart of the National Cycle Network (NCN), with 276 miles of completed network running throughout the county. The NCN is managed by Sustrans on behalf of Welsh Government. Where possible, the network uses traffic free or quiet lanes away from busier sections of county or trunk roads. Within Powys there are 46 miles of traffic free network offering families and novice cyclists a safe place to ride.

Some of the most popular cycle routes and trails within the county include sections of Lon Las Cymru (National Cycle Route 8) that runs between North and South Wales, Lon Cambria (National Cycle Route 81) from Aberystwyth to Shrewsbury and the Radnor Ring (National Cycle Route 825) which follows a circuit in the heart of Powys. Key sections of the traffic free network include the Elan Valley Trail, the Montgomery Canal towpath, Newtown Riverside and the old railway path between Ystradgynlais and Coelbren.

The existence of sections of the national network is widely believed to contribute to an increase in utility cycling and walking trips within local authority areas (not just for leisure) and plays an important economic role in attracting visitors to the area. The NCN is therefore included in active travel for the purposes of improving walking and cycling provision.

## 1.8 Area Statements

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 looks to plan and manage Wales’ resources by producing “Area Statements”. They will specify priorities, risks and opportunities for the area in order to best manage the natural resources in the area and take a “place based approach”. As such, consideration should be given to contribute to the provision of public access and recreation within the area concerned.

There are seven area statements in Wales, and the mid-Wales Area Statement covers the counties of Powys and Ceredigion. Future NRW funding is likely to focus on objectives under the WB&FG Act 2015 as well as work that aligns itself with the priorities and objectives of the respective “Area Statement” as defined within the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

### Statements of Action

Take all reasonable steps to improve access for all.

Participate in collaborative partnership working with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial aims.

Work in partnership with neighbouring local authorities. Consider and participate in cross-border initiatives, where benefits exceed investment.

## 1.9 Strategic Context

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan does not stand-alone but sits alongside other strategies and plans at a local, regional and national level. Out of the many documents that exist, the key strategies which have been identified as being of particular importance and relevance are:

The following table draws out the key linkages between these documents and the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.



<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Relevant Policy or Theme</b>	<b>Link to ROWIP Themes</b>
Public Service Board 2040 Vision.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. People in Powys will experience a stable and thriving economy.</li> <li>2. People in Powys will enjoy a sustainable and productive environment.</li> <li>3. People in Powys will be healthy, socially motivated and responsible.</li> <li>4. People in Powys will be connected to resilient communities and a vibrant culture.</li> </ol>	The ROWIP themes contribute to all four of the priorities.
Cabinet Vision 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Economy.</li> <li>2. Health and Care.</li> <li>3. Learning and Skills.</li> <li>4. Residents and Communities.</li> </ol>	The ROWIP themes contribute to all four of the priorities.
WG Taking Wales Forward 2016-21	How Welsh Government will deliver more and better jobs through a stronger, fairer economy, improve and reform our public services, and build a united, connected and sustainable Wales.	Theme B and D.
WG Creating an Active Wales.	Develop and maintain a physical environment that makes it easier and safer for people to choose to be more physically active.	Themes A, B, C and D.
Public Health Wales and Sport Wales – Getting Wales Moving.	All communities in Wales have access to quality facilities and spaces for people to come together to be active.	Theme A, B.
Powys Local Development Plan	Promotion of businesses linked to countryside. Protection of PRoW, village greens and common land in planning system.	Theme A, B.
Regional Transport Plan and Active Travel Plans	Resourcing the ROWIP; Walking and Cycling development; National Cycle Network (NCN)	Theme A.
Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan	Lists key species and habitats in Powys.	Theme B.

Health and Care Strategy	Physical and mental well-being goals can be aided by the ROWIP and there is a clear link between the objectives of the Public Service Board as well as the Regional Partnership Board.	Themes A, B, C and D.
Regeneration Strategy for Powys Action Plan 2014 - 2017	Improve the physical and social infrastructure in communities.	Theme A, B, C and D.

Table 1 Strategic Context – Links with Local, National and Regional Plans and Strategies

It is not easy to demonstrate how the various strategies and visions sit alongside each other, so the Council has prepared a diagram to show how the various Acts and strategic plans fit together.

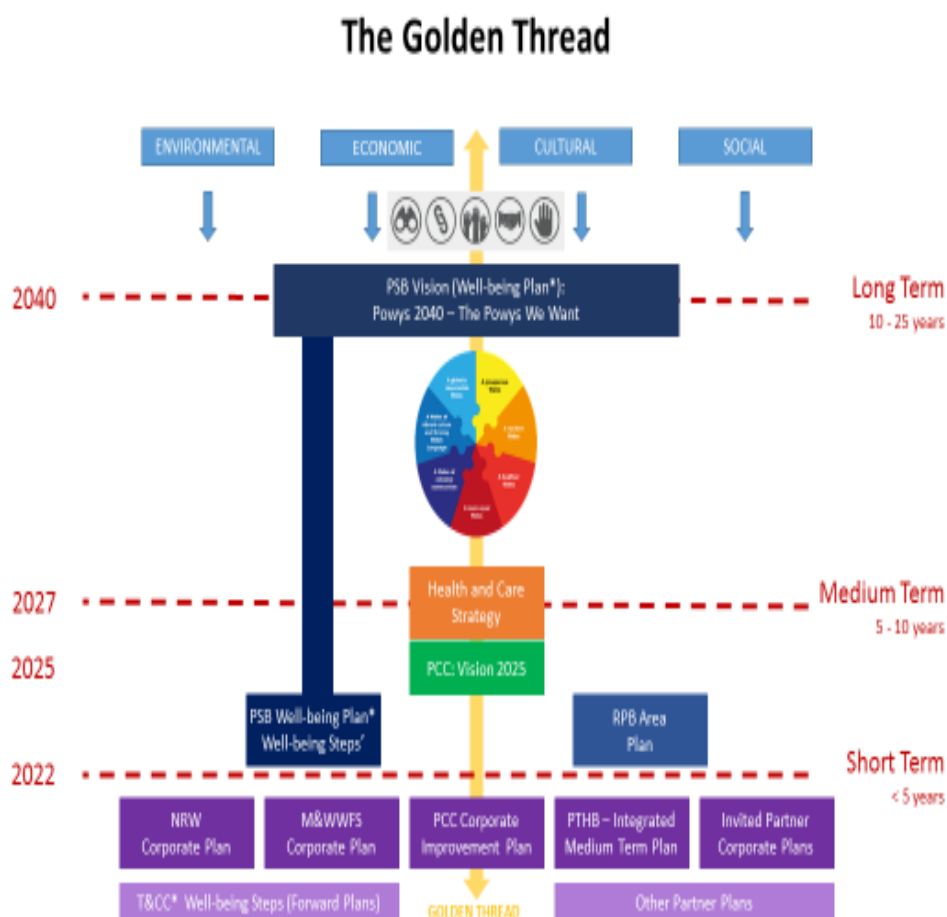


Table 2 The Golden Thread of Strategies

## **1.10 ROWIP Themes**

Four main themes have been identified during the ROWIP process. These themes have been identified as being key to delivering our vision for access to the Powys countryside. They are:

### **Themes**

- A Public Rights of Way and Open Air Recreation**
- B Management and Enforcement of Public Rights of Way and Green Spaces**
- C Definitive Map and Statement**
- D Publicity and Promotion**

Under these priorities sits the Statement of Actions that will be the key goals supporting each of the themes and the Delivery Plan.

These themes and Statement of Actions address the major issues arising from the public consultation and assessments and provide the backbone to the ROWIP, the Delivery Plan and the improvements planned for Countryside Services over the next 10 years.

## Section 2 Assessing the Needs of Users

### 2.1 Introduction

As part of the review of the ROWIP, a survey was undertaken with the public, landholders, user groups, and Town and Community Councils. The aim was to assess the existing and potential demands and opportunities for the public rights of way network, as well as to evaluate the effectiveness of the 2007-2017 Plan.

Alongside the public consultation, workshops and seminars were held with the Local Access Forum, and Stakeholder Working Group who have been kept informed and involved throughout the ROWIP process. Focus group meetings were also held with Countryside Services Officers and managers, as well as disability groups.

The information from the public consultation, focus groups, workshops, seminars and meetings with other organisations has been gathered to allow analysis of the needs and demands of all current and potential users of countryside access.

### 2.2 Survey Responses

The table below breaks down to whom the individual surveys were sent and number of responses received.

Table 7 ROWIP Consultation Surveys

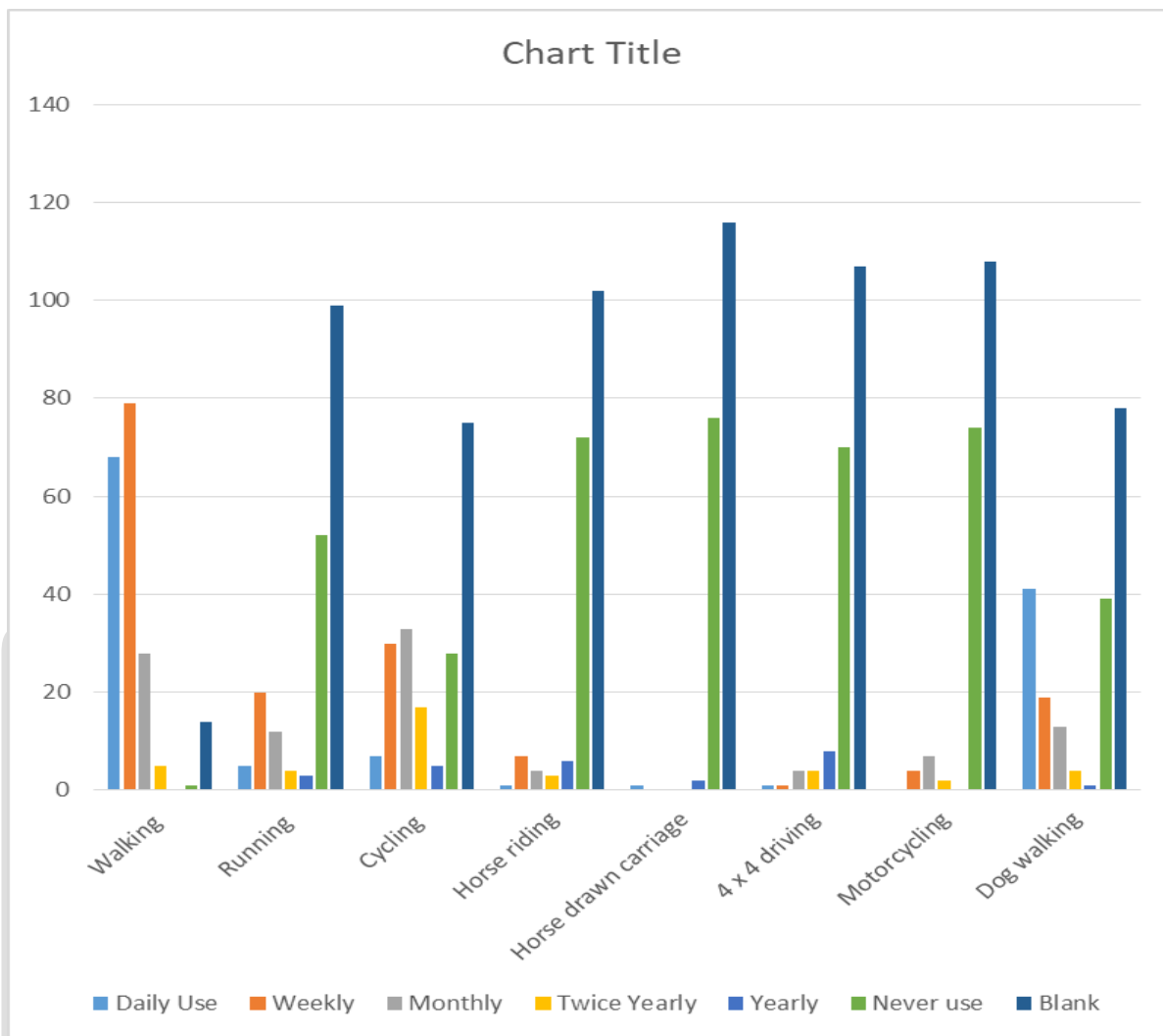
<b>Survey Type</b>	<b>Who was it sent to?</b>	<b>How many responses were received in 2017</b>	<b>How many responses were received in 2007</b>
General	Powys Citizens Panel, all statutory consultees, Stakeholder Working Group, Local Access Forum members, County Councillors, Website and advertised in local media through press releases and Moovly.	289	1072
Landholders	Publicised through	71	266

	Country Land & Business Association, Farmers Union of Wales and the National Farmers Union		
Town and Community Councils	All 110 councils outside the Brecon Beacons National Park	15	44

The response to all the surveys was not as encouraging as in 2007, but this is perhaps because the ROWIP was first produced in 2007 and not necessarily because interest has diminished. The comprehensive information received from our customers (the public) has been utilised to inform the development of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan and will subsequently do so for the Delivery Plan.

### **2.3 User Group Assessments**

There are many groups and individuals who use the PRow network to varying extents. The graph below shows a breakdown from the General Survey, outlining the participation in activities undertaken on the PRow network.



The largest user group are walkers. More people walk on the network than all the other activities put together and on a more frequent and regular basis. Dog walking is the second most popular activity, followed by cycling.

The ROWIP needs to address the needs and issues of different users. The major user groups have been identified and examined below. Actions relating to each activity are outlined at the end of each section.

## 2.4 Walkers and Dog-Walkers

Walkers and dog-walkers have a legal right of access to 100% of the PRoW and Recreational Trails network, and the majority of Access land.

The results of the General Survey show us that walking was the most popular activity undertaken on the network, with 36% of those who responded stated that they did so on a daily basis and 44% on a weekly basis. Of these

respondents, 66% use the network to walk their dogs on a daily basis. Demand for access on foot is already high and expected to grow in the future.

Although walkers and dog-walkers legally have access to the whole network, there are particular issues. *Standard stiles are obstacles to access* for many people with mobility difficulties and those with dogs. All the surveys showed that the PRow network is better suited for walkers and dog walkers than for any other user group.

One of the main findings from the consultation was the desire for *local, circular routes around settlements*. 88% of respondents wanted to see more circular routes opened up, an increase from 79% in 2007. In general, walkers and dog walkers want better provision in their local areas, as opposed to new long distance routes. Since 2007 the Service has directed resources towards providing better provision for short circular walks around settlements, and this could be a direct result of that increased provision.

Following the 2007 ROWIP consultation a ‘least restrictive’ access practice was adopted. This practice promotes a least restrictive approach, with gap, gate, and standard stile being the descending order of furniture choice. This approach aims to improve access for more people, whether that is individuals, dog walkers, families with pushchairs or people with mobility difficulties.

The recent ROWIP consultation highlighted again that improvements in terms of improved access for all is still a priority. Therefore, the ‘least restrictive’ approach will be continued and embedded throughout the work of Countryside Services. Resources are an issue and the continuing practice of offering grants for undertaking landholders responsibilities such as installing gates will have to be reviewed.

Although not a direct question within the survey, dog fouling is a persistent problem. It is an offence to let your dog foul in designated land under the Dog (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. Such designated land includes, all publicly owned land in towns and villages and footpaths and bridleways where “No Fouling” signs are displayed.

The Service will therefore work with local communities and internal and external partners to help manage and reduce dog fouling offences.

## **Statement of Actions**

Implement 'least restrictive' access practices.

Work with internal and external partners to improve countryside access in Powys.

## **2.5 Cyclists**

Cycling both on and off road is a popular activity in Powys, with a wide range of routes available for users. Cyclists have a right of access to 36% of the PRow network, and are the second most regular and frequent user on the network. Powys also has a number of urban cycle paths, active travel networks and other routes and trails that are suitable for everyone, whatever their age or cycling ability. These routes may or may not be on recognised PRow. There are off-road mountain biking trails in the Llanwrtyd Wells and Machynlleth areas. Powys' Recreational Trail, the Epynt Way, is fully open to cyclists. The NRW woodland estate is also a valuable resource, with many forests allowing access for horse riders and cyclists along the forest tracks.

Powys is at the heart of the National Cycle Network with 129 miles of completed network running through the county and a further 115 miles due for future completion. Where possible, the network uses traffic free or quiet lanes away from busier sections of county or trunk roads. Some of the most popular cycle routes and trails include sections of the National and Regional cycle network running through Powys – Lon Las Cymru NCR 8, Lon Cambria Route 81 from Aberystwyth to Shrewsbury and the Radnor Ring Regional cycle route 25.





Of the general survey respondents, 17% cycle on the PRoW network at least once a month. The issues raised by cyclists during the consultation were in line with other users, with *signage*, *obstructions* and *furniture* all being important.

As a result of the ROWIP consultations, from 2007 and 2017, it is proposed that a higher priority be given to byways open to all traffic, restricted byways and bridleways within a community, therefore improving access for cyclists and a wider range of users.

<p><b>Statement of Actions</b></p> <p>Implement ‘least restrictive’ access practices.</p> <p>Work with internal and external partners to improve countryside access in Powys.</p>
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## 2.6 Horse-Riders

The county of Powys has a dense network of bridleways offering good opportunities for access on horseback. Riding provides an excellent opportunity for access to the countryside by people with mobility and sensory difficulties. Horse riders in Powys have the right to use 36% of the PRoW network (excluding BBNP). The distribution of access for horse-riders is highlighted on the map below.



Although the network available to horse riders is less than that available to walkers, the percentage of their network open and easy to use is far higher. Analysis of the 2017 of Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) data shows that 53% of the bridleway network is open and easy to use, compared to only 38% of the entire network.

As well as the general PRow network, parts of the Recreational Trails network provides access on horseback. The Epynt Way in Breconshire developed in partnership bwith the MoD and PCC, is a circular bridleway entirely open to horse riders and cyclists. Parts of other Recreational and National Trails within Powys are also open to horses, such as lengths of the Glyndŵr's Way. The NRW woodland estate is also a valuable resource, with many forests allowing access for horse riders and cyclists along the forest tracks.

Countryside Services aim to work in partnership with the BHS and others, to improve access, where this can be accommodated within the priority system for managing PRow access across Powys.

The results of the General Survey showed that 5% of the respondents ride horses on the PRow network at least once a month.

The survey results highlighted the issues horse riders have with the network; these are similar to those from other users, with *signage* and *obstructions* being significant considerations. However, they also highlight the specific issue of the difficulties in using road verges, due to the clutter of signs and notices. The provision of *high quality furniture*, especially *gates that are easy to open and close*, is also very important.

Consideration should also be given to the BHS field trials for self-closing gates, and the problems encountered with some new gate installations. The recommendation was to install two way opening gates as well as having long reach handles to reduce the amount of times a rider needs to dismount to open a gate.

### **Statement of Actions**

Ensure high quality gates and installation to allow easy access for horse riders.

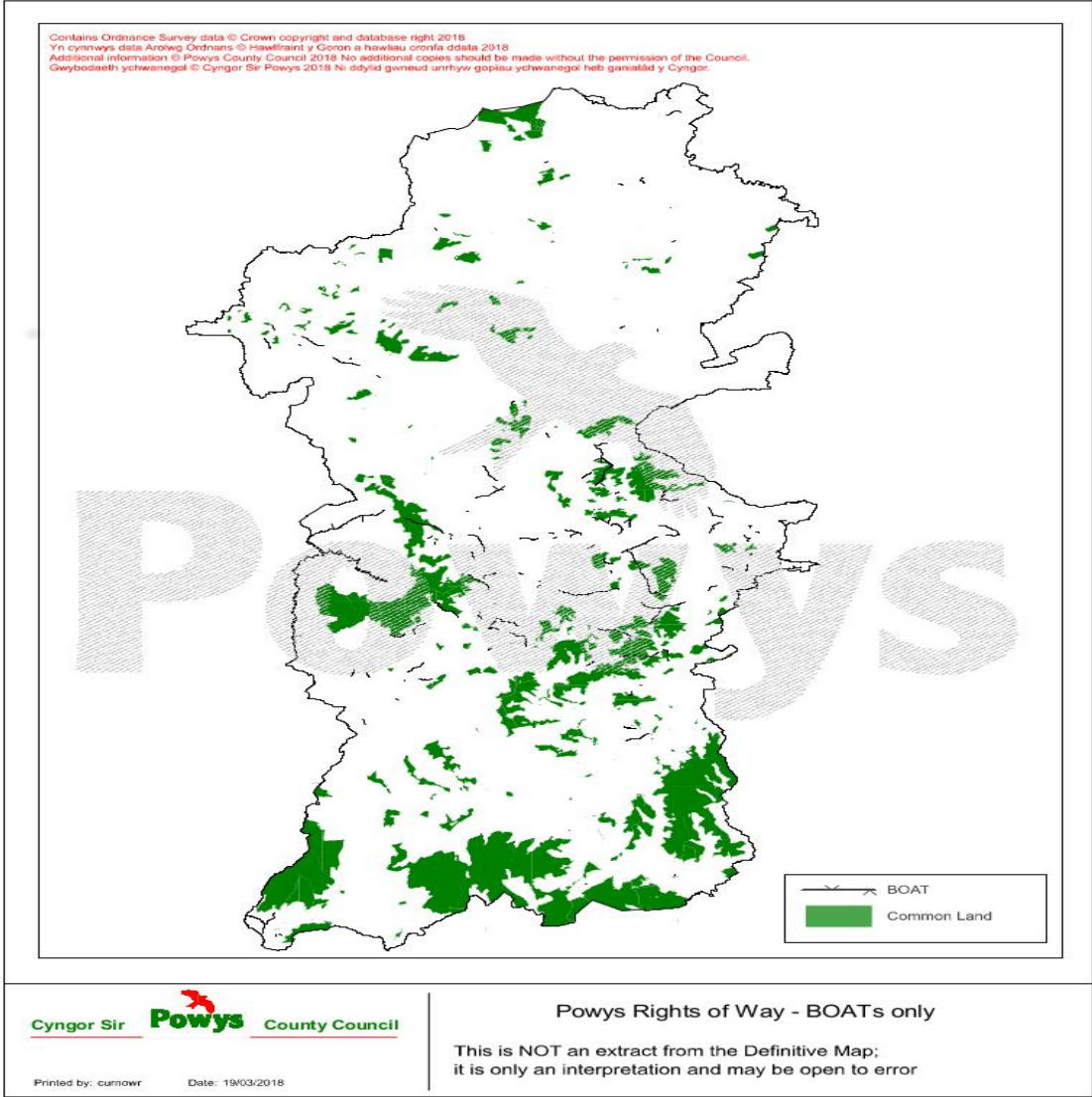
Implement 'least restrictive' access practices.

Work with internal and external partners to improve countryside access in Powys.

## 2.7 Motorised Vehicles

Mechanically propelled vehicles (MPV’s) can include any vehicle powered by a motor, such as a 4x4, off-road truck, car or motorcycle. Powys is a popular area for motorised access, currently vehicles can legally access 216km of PRow in Powys (including BBNP), which equates to 2% of the network.

Map 8 – Public Rights of Way available for Motor Vehicles



The results of the General Survey show that less than 1% of the respondent’s use MPV’s on the PRow network. Throughout the ROWIP consultation processes, the response from MPV users, both from groups and individuals, has been on a very small scale.



Motorised access can be controversial. The main problem cited by landholders and other users is the harm caused by inappropriate use of MPV's on un-surfaced routes, leading to severe ruts and surface damage. Whilst the use of MPV's on BOATs is entirely lawful, it can lead to conflict. Motorised access can damage flora and fauna and its activity and management does have visible implications on the landscape. There are also reported cases of conflict between users and landholders, and between vehicular and other types of users.

The problem facing Powys County Council is the scale and technical difficulties in the management and maintenance of the byway network. Resources are currently insufficient to quickly repair byways that have been damaged by vehicle use and water erosion, and in some cases Traffic Regulation Orders have been used, to allow the surface time to recover. PCC is working with user groups to identify, prioritise and carry out byway repair work. Consideration of the sustainability of the surface must and does form part of any assessment, with the long-term management of vehicular routes, including surface condition, level of use and seasonal conditions all being looked at. The new Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Act also places a duty on PCC to consider the impact on biodiversity as well as sustainability under the Well-Being and Future Generation Act 2015.

The challenge is to provide quality access for MPV's, which does not impact on the natural environment that the users have come to enjoy. The importance and benefits of motorised access must not be overlooked. There are economic benefits, with people travelling and staying in Powys to use our byway network. MPV's can also provide access to the Powys countryside for people with mobility difficulties.

There are issues surrounding illegal motorised access in Powys. Illegal activity ranges from local motorcyclists to organised groups of 4x4s, driving and riding on commons, Access land, lower status PRoW and private property. Illegal riding and driving is primarily a matter for the police as criminal offences; although PCC are being pro-active about the situation by signing areas where there is a known problem and having a reporting mechanism on the Council's website.

Countryside Services will continue to be pro-active in their approach to motorised access and aims to work with user groups on a local and national level to address problems and develop work programmes. The main way to do this is through the existing Powys Byways User Group. Collaborative working with user groups, Dyfed Powys Police, Natural Resources Wales, landowners and neighbouring authorities will be key in this area. Emphasis

will be placed on educating people on the situation, including better information on site and in providing clearer details of when routes are subject to temporary closure.

### **Statement of Actions**

Seek resources to manage and maintain the byway open to all traffic network.

Work with internal and external partners to improve countryside access in Powys.

Work with stakeholders to improve provision, education and enforcement with regards to legal and illegal motorised access.

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## 2.8 Assessing the needs of people with mobility and sensory impairments

The Welsh Government's advice on producing a ROWIP highlights that it is a requirement to make an assessment on the accessibility of local public rights of way to blind or partially sighted people and others with mobility problems.

## 2.9 Context

The term 'equality' can mean different things to different people, so for clarity, when using this term, the Council will work to the definition provided by the Equalities Review (in line with common practice):

*“An equal society protects and promotes equal, real freedom and opportunity to live in the way people value and would choose, so that everyone can flourish. An equal society recognises people's different needs, situations and goals, and removes the barriers that limit what people can do and be.”*

There are an estimated 11 million disabled adults in the United Kingdom, which equates to about 1 in 5 of the total adult population. They include people with physical and mobility impairments, mental disabilities including depression and stress related conditions such as anxiety, learning difficulties including dyslexia, people with visual and hearing impairments, and people with terminal and long-term illnesses including Cancer, HIV and Multiple Sclerosis.

There is a lot to consider when looking at public access and at how it may affect different groups of people in different ways. A barrier on a PRow may be a problem for one disabled person but not for another. Consideration must also be given to the friends and family and how different access opportunities impact on them.

The Equalities Act 2010 places a general duty upon all public bodies to promote equality in everything that it does as an organisation, and the Well-Being and Future Generation Act 2015 clearly plays a part as well.

The Powys County Council Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020 states that the aim of the Council is:

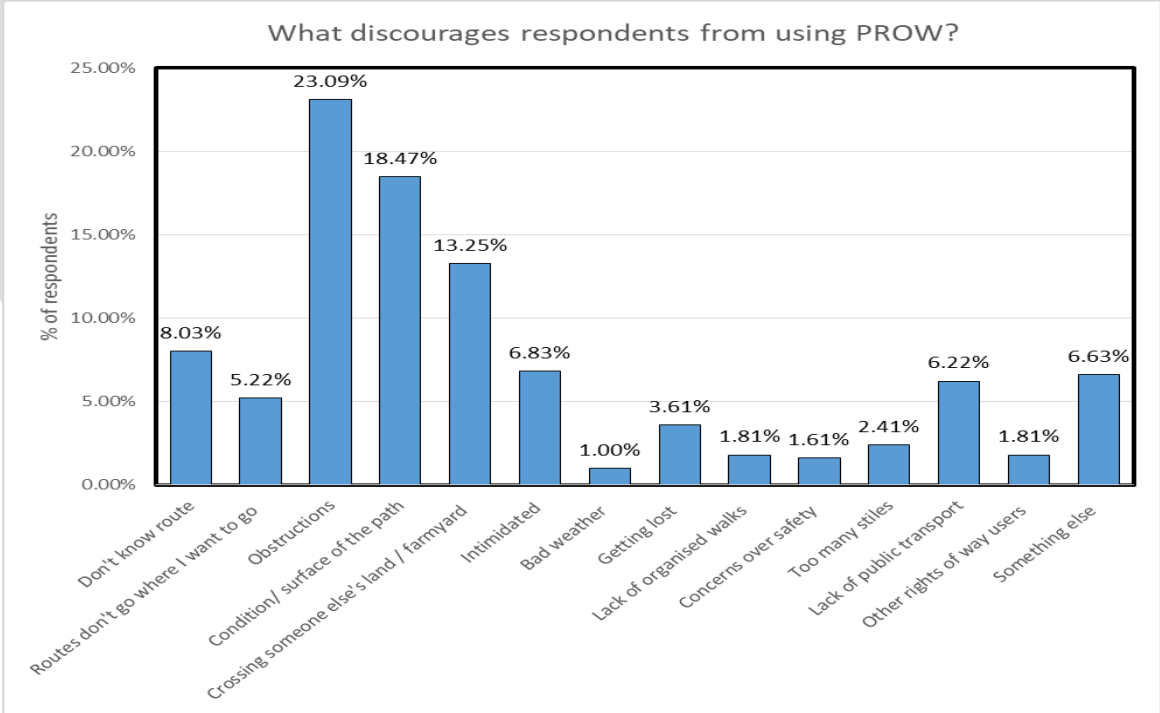


*“To improve our services and employment practices to meet the different needs of our citizens and employees and contribute towards improving the life outcomes for those who experience disadvantage”.*

The plan is for everyone who lives, works, visits, or has an interest in Powys including businesses and organisations. Access to the countryside and other public spaces are no exception to this commitment, and the ROWIP will lay out how the Council will work to achieve this aim.

### 2.10 Assessment

As part of the consultation process, views were sought from people with mobility and sight impairments. The general survey showed that 19% of respondents fit into these categories. This is in line with the national figures from the Disability Rights Commission, which states that around 1 in 5 people have a disability. All surveys were available in large print format by request.



The graph above shows results from the General Survey. The graph shows that obstructions (legal and illegal) are what discourages users most from using PROW, closely followed by the condition of the surface. The issue that people would most like to see improved on the PROW network is for the *furniture and path surfaces to be made more accessible*. 47% of the respondents who classed themselves as having a disability (temporary or

permanent) said they would use the PRow network more if there were *more routes available that were accessible for all*.

The ROWIP consultation highlighted the concerns that people have over access to the PRow network by people with disabilities. Out of all the different user groups; walkers, horse-riders, cyclists, motorcyclists etc.; the PRow network was rated as providing the worst service for people with mobility impairments. This theme came back strongly throughout the consultation and across the different surveys.

Meetings and discussions have been held with local disability groups including Disability Powys, the Physical Loss and Sensory Group, the Brecknock and Montgomery Access Groups, Mothers and Toddlers Groups and with appropriate Council Officers where their remit includes Equalities, Welsh Language and Sustainability.

## **2.11 Outcomes**

The meetings and results of the consultation have reinforced the continuation of a 'least restrictive' working practice, which operates under the presumption of *gap-gate-stile*. This practice has been in operation for a number of years by the Countryside Services team and results are already visible. In 2006-07, 67% of all furniture installed on paths were gates, and 33% were stiles. In 2016-17, 97% of furniture installed were gates, compared to 3% of stiles. This shows the success of the 'least restrictive' approach.

One of the actions of the ROWIP, prioritises the higher status paths for attention first within a Priority Project Area to develop a cohesive network for multiple types of users. As higher status paths will only have gates not stiles along them, this will help to improve accessibility for disabled users who may walk, ride, cycle, horse-ride or drive on the PRow network.

## 2.12 ‘Least Restrictive’ Working Practices

Wherever the occasion arises to replace, repair or install items of path furniture, the opportunity will always be taken to negotiate the least restrictive option. The first option to be considered will be a gap, down through the range of gates, kissing gates and any other suitable structure. This is called the “Least Restrictive Principle”.

Landholder grants will also not be issued for the installation of stiles. A stile will only be supplied when it is a legal entitlement for a landholder to have a stile, and so the Council can also meet its own statutory obligations.

Bridges and culverts will have a minimum width of 1.2 metres wherever it is reasonably practicable, and ramps will be considered rather than steps. Where diversions of PRow take place, or application is made for consent for a new structure under s.147 Highways Act 1980, there will be a presumption against stiles. Stiles are also not to be installed alongside gates, although a smaller gate may be provided next to a larger field gate within the width of the public highway.

In other circumstances e.g. surfacing standards, the “least restrictive principle” will be assessed on a case by case basis by the relevant Countryside Services Officer taking into account the:

1. Path status.
2. Definitive map and statement.
3. Historical furniture on site.
4. Topography.
5. Nature of farming and land use.
6. Local circumstances.
7. Legal entitlement of the landholder.

### **Statement of Actions**

Implement ‘least restrictive’ access practices.

Replace stiles with gates wherever possible.

Identify and improve routes that are most likely to be accessed by people with mobility and sensory difficulties.

All information produced by Countryside Services will aim to be available, appropriate, accurate and accessible.

Work with internal and external partners to provide improved access for all.

Review current landholder grant policy.

## 2.13 User Needs Assessment Conclusions

Public consultation has presented an opportunity to critically evaluate current practices with respect to meeting public demands.

Consultation has thrown up few findings that were wholly unexpected or surprising but has highlighted and focussed existing trains of thought. There is the danger when running a consultation exercise that different surveys might yield contrasting results, however this has not generally occurred. The surveys have come back with remarkably similar trends and viewpoints. The extensive public consultation exercise has provided for an in-depth look at the issues surrounding countryside access and allowed central themes to be drawn out. These are:

- *The extent to which local rights of way meet the present and future likely needs of the public.*

The three main surveys all addressed the suitability of the current rights of way network for all users. The message came back clearly that the network provides average to good for walkers and dog walkers. At the other end of the scale the results show that provision is worst for people with mobility and sensory difficulties, and also for families with a push chair and young children. This is an area where future work can be pursued.

The survey response was that anomalies should be resolved and be a priority rather than recording new ones. This highlights that there are connectivity issues, although the provision of a new public right of way can also do this.

- *The opportunities provided by local rights of way for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation, and the enjoyment of their area.*

The General Survey has shown that 89% of the 289 respondents consider themselves to be users of PRoW. Powys has a huge path network of approximately 8200km, which provides many opportunities for exercise and open-air recreation. PRoWs provide the most comprehensive means of accessing the countryside in Powys. This is further supported by extensive

areas of Access land, public woodland, commons and public owned green space for visiting the countryside.

When asked about their most recent visit to the outdoors, 47% of adults in Wales had travelled less than a mile from home, with 30% of visits being to a local park. This suggests that access to ‘doorstep opportunities’ is an important factor for engagement in outdoor recreation for many people.<sup>17</sup>

The Powys PRoW network and open recreation is analysed in more detail in Section 2 - This fully explores the opportunities and access available for all users.

- *The accessibility of rights of way to blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems.*

The accessibility of the PRoW network for people of all mobilities was explored in the public consultation, for which 25 classified themselves as having restricted mobility.

One of these residents stated that they didn’t use the network and didn’t want to whilst three people stated that they only used the network sometimes. However, the remaining 21 classed themselves as regular users of the network. In terms of their use the majority of those with a condition were walkers (with or without dogs) and a couple said they ran or rode a motorbike occasionally.

There were no real differences in the views given by this group in comparison to the rest of the sample with regard to any problems encountered. The top four listed by these respondents were the same as the wider sample and were around poor way marking, the condition of the paths, obstructions and stiles and gates being in a poor state or inappropriate for use.

For the majority of the 25 respondents who stated they had a condition that impacted on their health they tended to walk and drive to the start of a public right of way which was similar to those without any condition. However, there was clearly more reliance on getting a bus or a lift for these respondents than other users without a health condition. 16% of residents with a health condition said they got a bus compared to 12% of respondents minus a health complaint, 20% got a lift compared to 11%, and 68% walked compared to 85% of those without a health condition.

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<sup>17</sup> Welsh Outdoor Survey 2016-17 \_ Keys Facts and Findings

All the survey results recognised that the current network provides least for people with mobility and sensory difficulties; meetings held with local disabled people and Disability Powys have further confirmed this.

## 2.14 Strategic Findings

The consultation has assisted with the development of a number of clear strategic findings that are now contained within the ROWIP. These findings are outlined below:

- The main aim of Countryside Services will be the continued and measured opening up of the existing public rights of way network, but still with an importance placed on maintaining the paths already opened.
- Improve signage and waymarking of paths already open in collaboration with partners.
- Obstructions are a major barrier to people using the public rights of way network, and they need to be removed as a matter of priority.
- Higher emphasis will be placed on the development of local, circular routes around settlements rather than long distance routes.
- Development and implementation of a “Higher Tiered Approach” to work more with community councils and groups. Working in this way, is likely to mean that public rights of way in more remote areas are less likely to receive resources.
- There is demand for more and better information, both on and off-route. The website will also be used more effectively to communicate and to deliver information.
- The network needs to improve its provision for people with mobility and sensory difficulties. Therefore, under the “least restrictive principle” an application or request for a stile under s.147 Highways Act 1980 in an existing gap or new boundary will have a presumption for gates rather than stiles.
- Continue to invest in the existing promoted Recreational and National Trails, as well as to open and maintain other public rights of way.

# Section 3 - Theme A: Public Rights of Way and Open Air Recreation

## 3.1 The Public Rights of Way Network

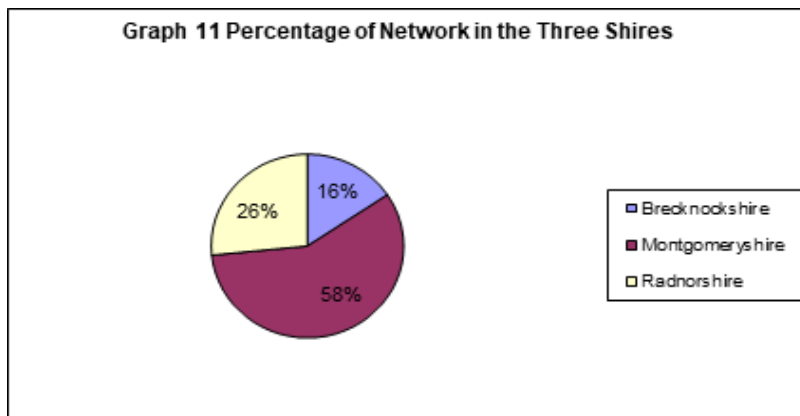
The county of Powys has just under 9,300 km of public rights of way. When you exclude the paths that fall under the jurisdiction of Brecon Beacons National Park, Powys County Council is responsible for 8,200 km of PRow. To put this figure into perspective, this is further than the distance across the Atlantic Ocean and back!

Table 32 Public Rights of Way in Powys (km)

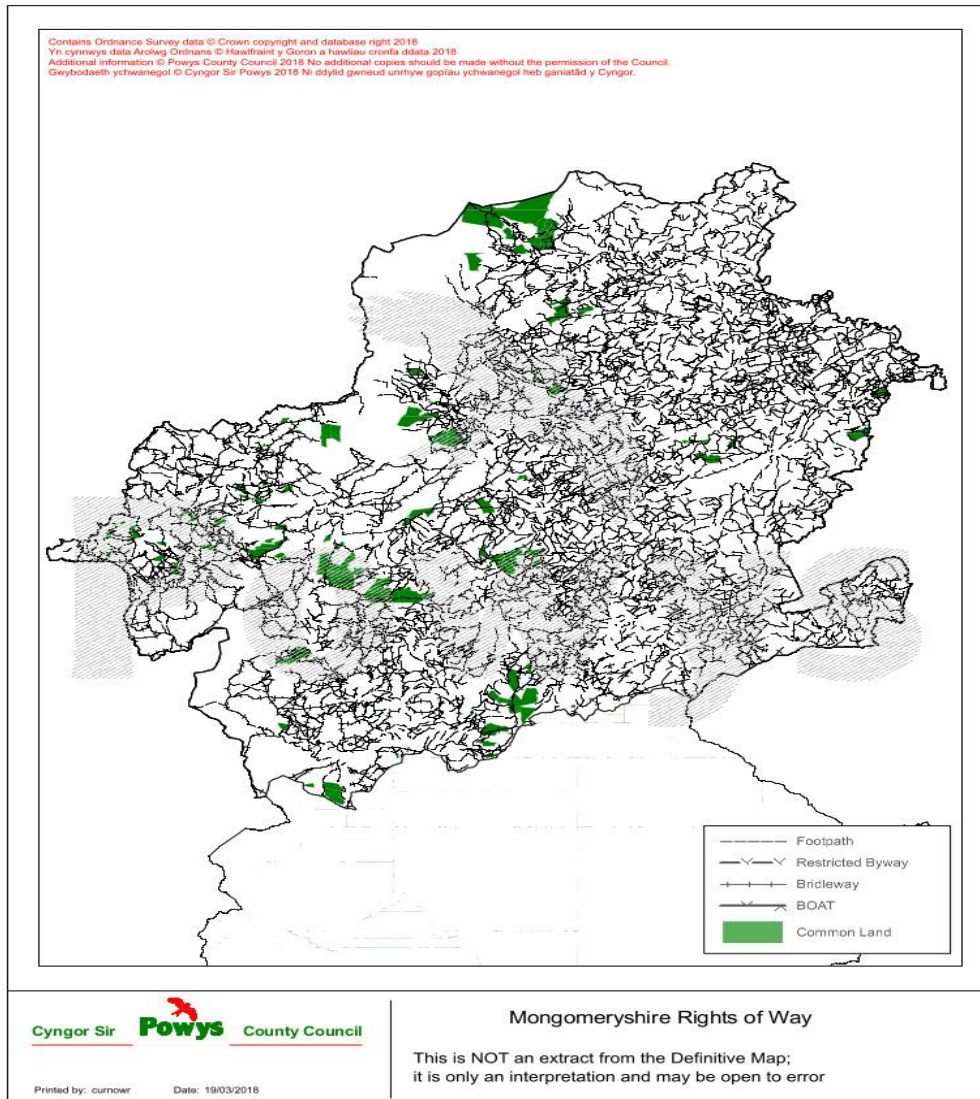
Path Status	Brecknockshire (excl. BBNPA)	Montgomeryshire	Radnorshire	Total PCC	BBNPA	Total in Powys
Footpath	553.6	3,524.7	1200.9	5279.2	677.2	5,956.4
Bridleway	612.8	926.5	809.6	2,348.9	262.9	2,611.8
Byway Open to All Traffic	37.8	23.2	153.4	214.4	1.7	216.1
Restricted Byway	74.2	283.9	0	358.1	152.9	511.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,278.4</b>	<b>4,758.3</b>	<b>2,163.9</b>	<b>8,200.6</b>	<b>1094.7</b>	<b>9,295.3</b>

(These figures are liable to change due to the current work on modifying and consolidating the Definitive Map and Statement.)

The spread of the network is not uniform across the county, with more than half of the network occurring in the old county of Montgomeryshire.



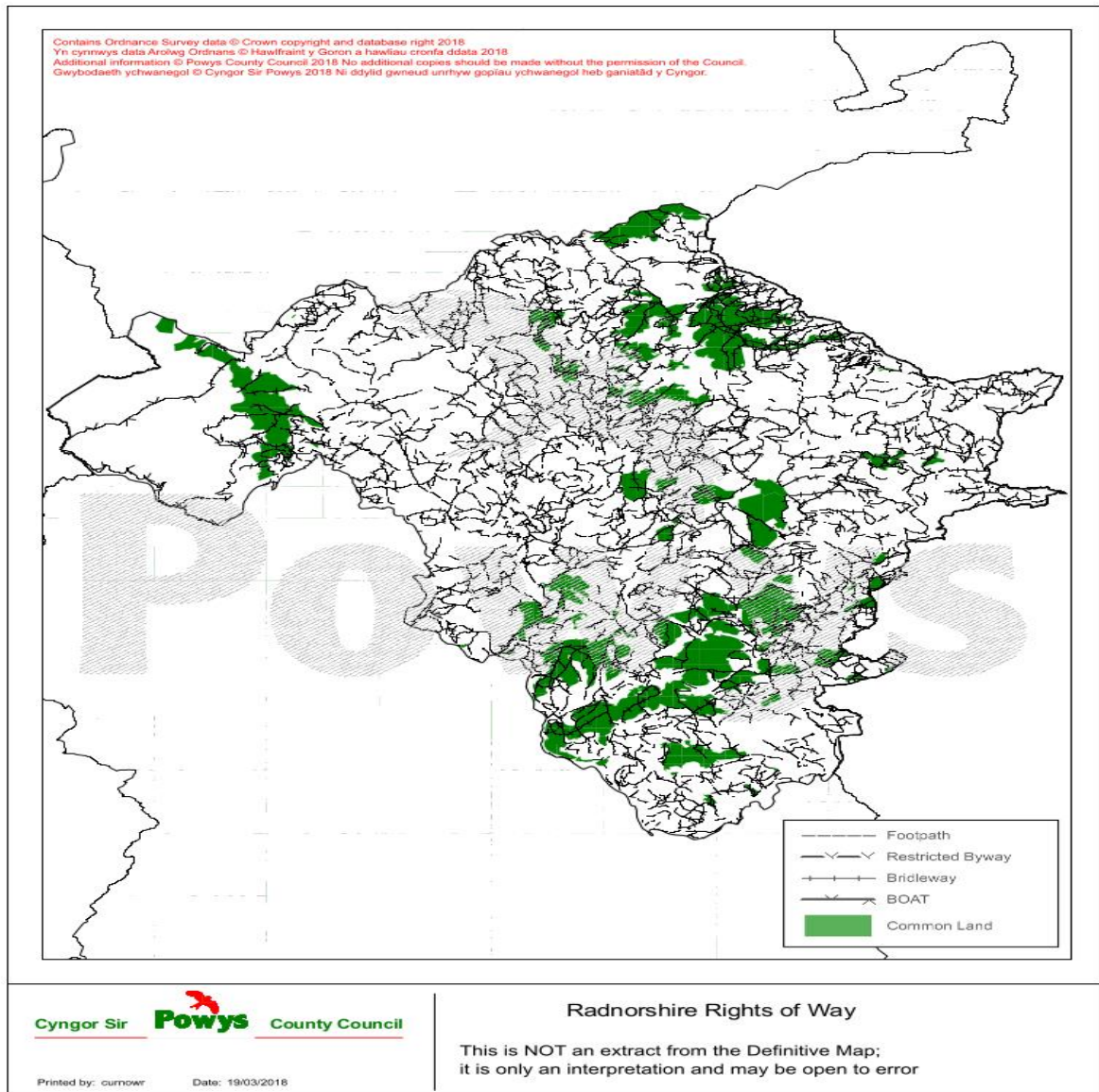
### Map 3 Access Map for Montgomeryshire



Map 3 above displays the distribution of access across Montgomeryshire. The map clearly highlights the very dense network running across the eastern side of the Shire with a less dense network on the western edge. The gaps in the PRow network interestingly correspond with the areas of Access land shown in orange, leading to a thorough spread of access for walking across the Shire.

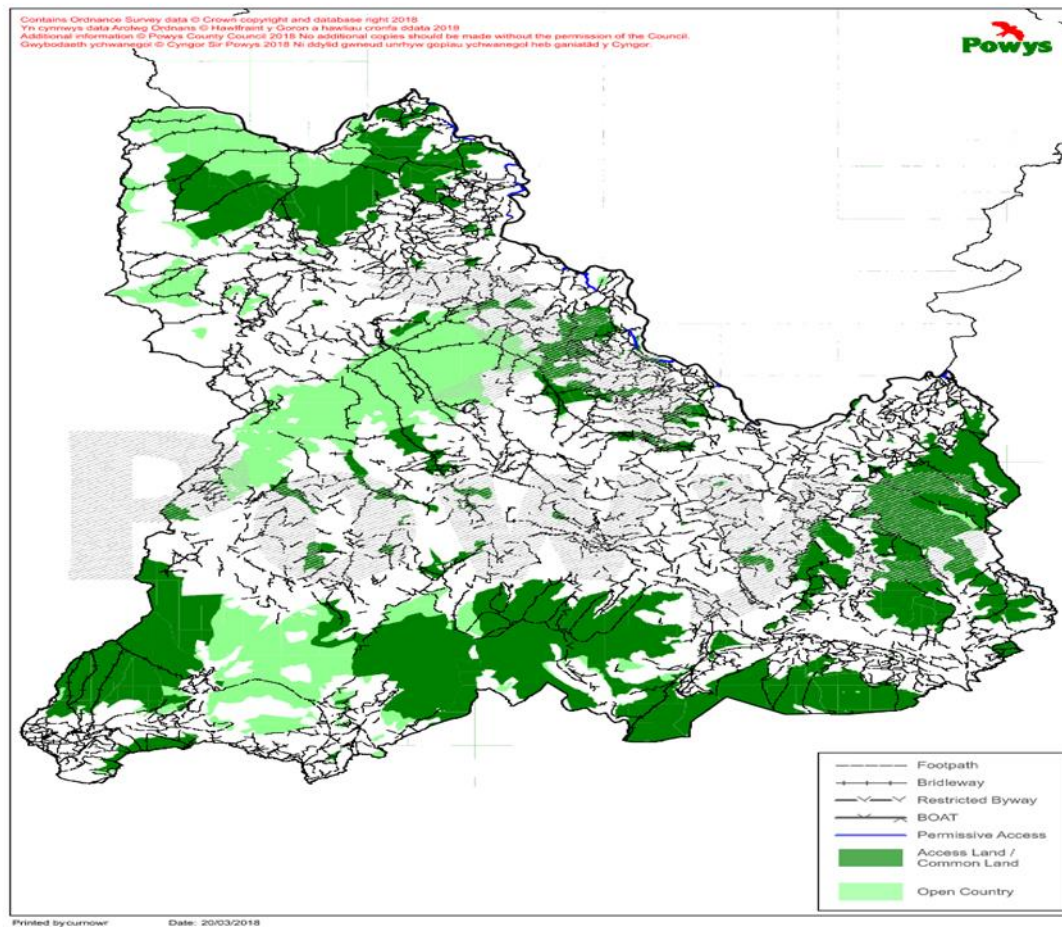


Map 4 Access Map for Radnorshire



Proportionally, Radnorshire has a higher percentage of bridleways and byways than Montgomeryshire, allowing a greater range of access. The distribution of paths across the Shire is pretty even, with any gaps in the network again being compensated for by large areas of Access land for walking.

## Map 5 Access Map for Brecknockshire

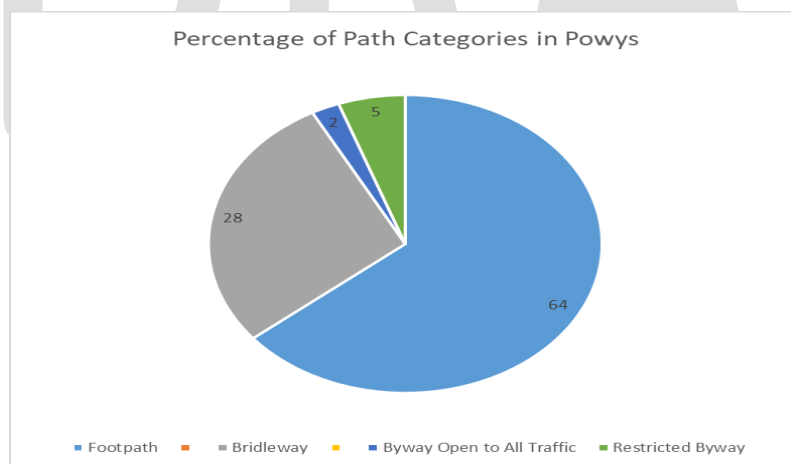


Brecknockshire has a more uneven distribution of paths with large areas of limited linear access. However, as shown in orange on Map 5, these too generally correspond with significant areas of Access land with provision for access on foot. There is exceptional provision of Access land, but this is limited to walkers.

Table 4 Percentage of Network Broken Down by Path Status

Path Status	Legal Users	Total in Powys (including BBNP)
Footpath	Walkers, dog walkers	5,956.4
Bridleway	As above plus horse riders & cyclists	2,611.8
Restricted Byway	As above plus horse-drawn carriages	511.0
Byway Open to All Traffic	As above plus all motorised vehicles	216.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>9,295.3</b>

Table 4 above shows the breakdown of the PRoW network by path status. The graph below shows the percentages of these paths. We can see that the majority of the network (64%) is made up of footpaths; bridleways make up 28% of the network; Restricted Byways 7% with Byways Open to All Traffic making up 1% of the network.



Clearly the network provides the most access for walkers and dog walkers. Countryside Services are working to implement a practice of prioritising higher status paths first in a community (as per the Higher Tier Approach), therefore helping to increase access for as wide a range of users as possible.

### 3.2 Condition of the Network

Within the remit of the ROWIP, it was deemed impractical for a 100% condition survey to be undertaken due to the large scale of the network in Powys. As an alternative, a 5% “ease of use” random sample survey (excluding BBNPA) was commissioned that was last undertaken in 2013. The 2017 survey was evaluated and analysed.

**Analysis of the available data suggests that 37.6% of the length of paths surveyed in 2017 were in a satisfactory condition.**

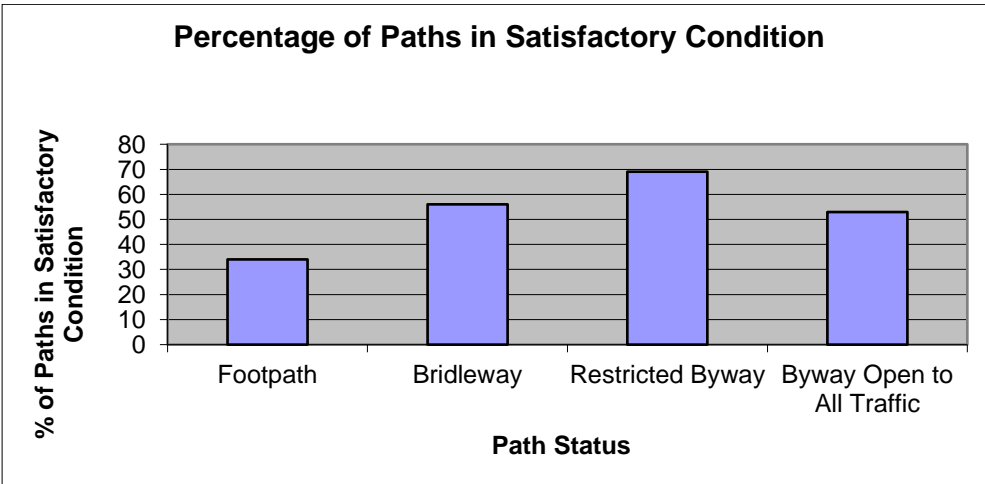
In 2007, the same 5% “ease of use” figure was 46.5% indicating that the condition of the network has been in decline. However, the results for an individual survey should be interpreted with caution. The 5% sample size is relatively small and so confidence levels are not particularly high. It is therefore helpful to view the 2017 survey in relation to previous 5% surveys.

Table 6 of 5% ease of use results

2007	46.5%
2010	38.9%
2012	35.3%
2013	40.7%
2017	37.6%

Table 6 highlights the degree of variability between survey periods and suggests that 2017 is in line with previous surveys undertaken over the last decade.

The graph below shows a breakdown of the percentage of paths that are in satisfactory condition.



The graph highlights that paths of a higher status would appear to be in better condition than the footpath network. Of the bridleways surveyed, 53% are in satisfactory condition with 75% of restricted byways and byways open and easy to use.

The survey recorded maintenance issues along the rights of way surveyed, on average there were 3.4 maintenance issues (problems) per km, or one problem every 294 metres. In other words there could be approximately 28,025 maintenance problems yet to be addressed on the whole network.

These results are a little better than the findings in 2006/07, but again the confidence levels are not that high due to the 5% random sampling of the network outside of the BBNPA. At that time there were 4.2 maintenance issues that rendered paths unusable or inconvenient per km.

These figures are closely matched by the results from the public consultation, which highlighted that 56% of people have encountered obstructions or barriers whilst using the rights of way network.

### **3.3 Improving the Public Rights of Way Network**

The data was separated into problem types and agreed standardised costs were used to undertake a cost analysis of repairs. The average cost per km to rectify all the path problems comes to £898 per km.

**An estimated £7,330,500 is therefore needed to rectify all the path problems on the public rights of way network outside of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.**

This figure only includes structural installation costs (i.e. not Officer costs, travel, etc.), and although includes surface costs, it does not take into account the large capital outlay required to reinstate and maintain a number of byways.

All of these figures are based on the presumption of 37.6% of the network being in satisfactory condition. To date, the 5% BVPI survey results have been variable and this can obviously have a major effect on the accuracy of the statistics. However, the gross costs for improving the situation are still broadly comparable with those from 10 years ago being £5,800,000 at that time.

The figures so far have related to existing maintenance problems that

need rectifying, but attention has also been paid to the ongoing maintenance needed to keep open paths in a satisfactory condition.

With an average of 2.6 items of infrastructure per km on the network, this equates to 21,266 pieces of furniture requiring maintenance. Based on average current costs, an estimated £613,000 per annum is needed to keep the existing level of open paths in their present condition.

**An estimated £613,000 per annum is required to maintain the current network and infrastructure in its present condition outside of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.**

In 2006-07, 67% of all furniture installed on paths were gates, and 33% were stiles. In 2016-17, 97% of furniture installed were gates, compared to 3% for stiles. This shows the success of the ‘least restrictive’ approach.

### **3.4 Public Rights of Way Resources**

The countryside access management budget has been decreasing significantly over recent years, with the trend looking set to continue. Officers look to achieve best value for money and work with volunteers and communities where possible. Bids for external grant funding are submitted every year, however, they are generally not available for work that is a statutory duty.

With current resources, it is not going to be possible to open 100% of the public rights of way network or the full hectareage of Common and Access land within the lifetime of this ROWIP.

Considering the declining budget, the public rights of way network and hectareage of Common land and Access land the Service has to deal with, then this needs to be set against the staffing for the work.

ROWIP consultation and data analysis have clearly shown that considerably greater resources are needed to bring the entire public rights of way network up to a standard in Powys that is easy to use. This includes the need for more staff on the ground and a larger supporting revenue budget. With decreasing resources, alternative methods of working will be required to maintain the current situation and prevent more of the network from falling into a state of disrepair.

### **Statement of Actions**

To continually open and have a well-signed public rights of way network.

Effectively manage, monitor and maintain opened paths in a satisfactory condition.

Participate in collaborative partnership working with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial aims.

## **3.5 National and Recreational Trails**

Powys has two National Trails, the Offa's Dyke Path and Glyndŵr's Way and a large number of regionally important promoted trails. The promoted trails currently include the Wye Valley Walk, Severn Way, Ann Griffiths Walk, Kerry Ridgeway, Pererindod Melangell and the Epynt Way.

Collectively these regional routes are referred to as *Recreational Trails* for the purposes of the ROWIP. There are other routes in Powys promoted by outside organisations e.g. Cambrian Way, Radnor Forest Ride and many more, however the ROWIP only looks at those routes managed and promoted by Countryside Services.

The two National Trails are the only trails to have a dedicated officer supporting their management, improvement and promotion. The two Trail Officers are 100% grant funded by Natural Resources Wales and Natural England. Glyndŵr's Way falls wholly within the county of Powys, the Offa's Dyke in comparison is managed in partnership with the other authorities that the Trail runs through.

The Recreational Trails are managed by Area Officers according to the sections that fall within each respective work area. The cycling and active travel routes across Powys are co-ordinated by the Travel Officer based within Highways Transport and Recycling.



### **3.6 Condition of the National and Recreational Trails Network**

The aim is for all promoted routes to be open and easy to use. There is little point in promoting a route if it does not meet the public's expectations. Maintenance and improvement programmes aim to improve path furniture to make routes accessible to as many people as possible. However, 83% of the survey respondents felt that Recreational Trails should not take priority over other PRow, and that they should all be given equal priority. As such, this has been embedded as a Statement of Action. Although the Service will not pro-actively prioritise Recreational Trails over the rest of the PRow, it will prioritise reports being received from the public.

The National Trails are substantially financed by either Natural Resources Wales or Natural England depending on which side of the border the Trail is within. For example, 75% of the works are paid for by Natural Resources Wales and 100% contributions for costs associated with re-alignment issues as well as Officer costs. The Recreational Trails' budget is managed within the Area Officers' own budget, and the improvement of the trails are often further supplemented with external grant funding when bids have been successful.

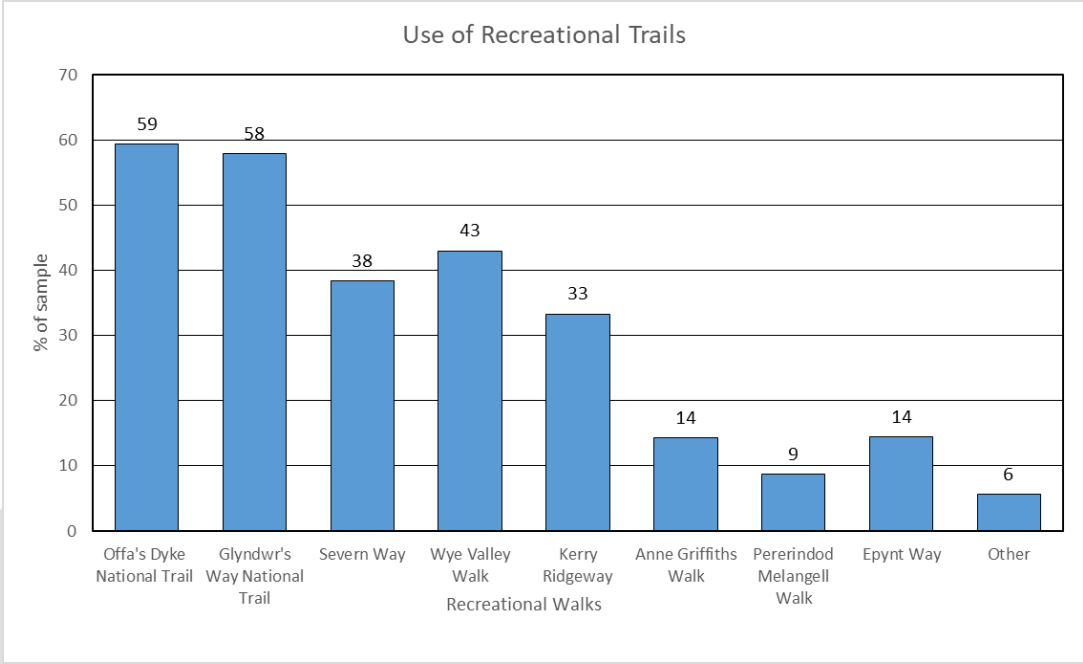
### **3.7 The Importance of the National & Recreational Trails Network**

The importance of National Trails to the local and indeed national economies are being increasingly recognised, especially following the Countryside Council for Wales' funded report into '*The Benefits to Business of the National Trails in Wales*' published in March 2006. There has been no further research on this since 2006. The report concluded that '*National Trails are a marketable attraction... They offer an opportunity for economic development in rural areas where alternatives are limited, often acting as a catalyst for value added development.*' This is also valid for all of the Recreational Trails in Powys.

The ROWIP public consultation has further highlighted the importance of these National and Recreational Trails to local people, visitors and businesses. The general survey has shown that 45% of the respondents use National and Recreational Trails in Powys with the Offa's Dyke path being the most popular of the routes, followed by Glyndŵr's Way and then the Wye Valley Walk. The landholder survey respondents rated National and



Recreational Trails as their fifth highest priority out of all the services provided by Countryside Services.



The ROWIP consultation has targeted residents, landholders, Town and Community Councils and visitors to the area. All of the surveys have shown that demand for the Trails is not as high as in the 2007 survey. Only 4% thought that sustaining long distance routes was important despite satisfaction with the provision and standard of the routes being high. Additionally, most of the responses felt that equal priority should be given to the general network and the Recreational Trails.

National and Recreational Trails provide a resource for recreation and tourism, offering benefits to the health and well-being of local residents and visitors. They also provide significant economic benefits to local communities, including local pubs, guesthouses, B&Bs, village shops and amenities. All of these elements are important themes in the current strategies of the major bodies, including Powys County Council, Visit Wales, Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales and Natural England.

### 3.8 Development of the National and Recreational Trails Network

There are currently limited resources available to support Recreational Trails in Powys. Natural Resources Wales substantially supports the Glyndwr's Way National Trail, with both NRW and Natural England supporting the Offa's Dyke Path. This support has been vital in the development of these

Trails over the last 25 years. However, there is limited funding available to support the remaining network of Recreational trails in the county.

Working in partnership with other organisations, European funding has been accessed for improvement and promotional activities on the trails. Projects such as “Walking with Offa” along the Offa corridor has been important in developing a market, including a number of circular walks from the National Trail and a locally brewed ale called “Best Offa” for which a proportion of the proceeds goes back into the management of the Trail. Walk Unlimited are the official promoting partner for all National Trails, and manage the Trails’ website.

Partnership working has long been an essential tool in the management of the National and Recreational Trails network in Powys. Officers will continue to work in partnership with appropriate organisations and communities; with the aim to extend this work in the future. Securing volunteers to support the surveying and maintenance of Recreational Trails will be important in terms of sustainability and achieving *best value for money*.

Work is being continually carried out to improve the accessibility of the National and Recreational Trails with improvements being made to the path furniture along the routes to make them increasingly accessible to all. A condition survey against the Quality Standards underpins National Trail management planning, and ensures resources are effectively targeted. The Quality Standards can be viewed on the NRW website.

There is great potential for the increased use of the National and Recreational Trails network in Powys, with increased and improved promotional activities being very beneficial. Any promotional work needs to be fit-for-purpose and utilise new technology such as social media, apps, websites and interactive interpretation, with less of a dependence on the publication of printed leaflets.

Where appropriate, opportunities should be taken to provide for short circular walks off a National or Recreational Trail where this allows for better access to accommodation providers or the trail is near to a settlement or place of interest.

<b>Statement of Actions</b>
Ensure the long terms success of the National and Recreational Trails in Powys.
Work in partnership with appropriate organisations and communities.

Participate in collaborative partnership working with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial aims.

Work with volunteers to support the management of National and Recreational trails.

Recreational Trails should not take priority over other PRow, and that they should all be given equal priority.

Improve path furniture to make National and Recreational Trails accessible for all.

Promotional work needs to be fit-for-purpose and utilise new technology such as social media, apps, websites and interactive interpretation.

Where appropriate, opportunities should be taken to provide for short circular walks off a National or Recreational Trail where this allows for better access to accommodation providers or the trail is near to a settlement or place of interest.

### **3.9 Open Access in Powys**

Open Access arose from the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, and is sometimes referred to as the '*right to roam*'. The Act has given the right for people to carry out many recreational activities that can be undertaken on foot. These can include walking, running, bird watching and picnicking; however no additional rights of access have been given to horse-riders, cyclists or vehicle users. However, the restrictions on the use of Access land is currently under review by Welsh Government.

Access land includes all Common land and designated 'open country'. In addition, Natural Resources Wales has also dedicated most of the land within its control as Access land. Due to its largely upland nature, Powys has a higher than average proportion of Access land, with 150,000 hectares (579 square miles) which equates to 29% of the county's land area. This corresponds to one third of the total Access land in Wales.

The legal maps of Access land are maintained by Natural Resources Wales. However, Powys County Council is the 'Access Authority' when it comes to practical management of public access over 'Access land' in the county. That responsibility falls to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority for any land within the National Park area.

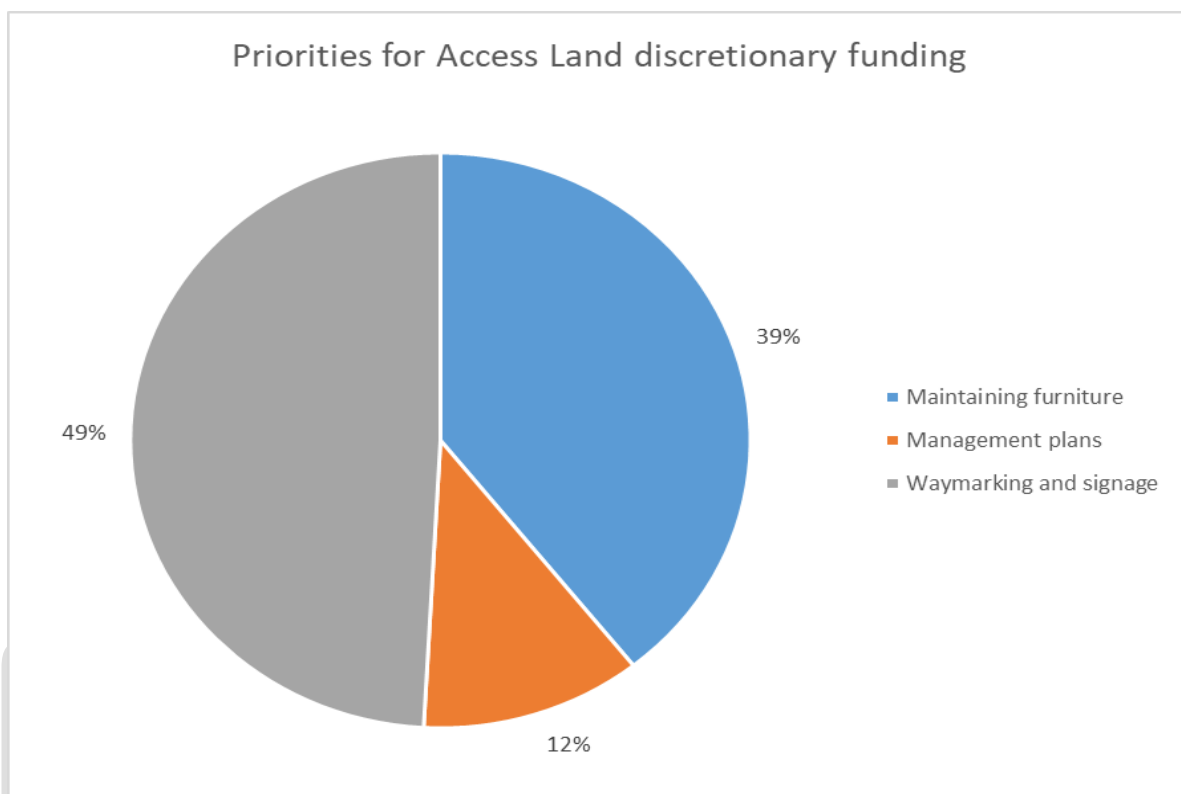
Even after deducting the Access land that lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park, and forests managed by Natural Resources Wales, Powys Countryside Services is responsible for managing access to 88,000 hectares (340 square miles), which corresponds to over 24% of the total Common Land and ‘open country’ in Wales.

### **3.10 Signing of Access Land**

ROWIP consultation has shown that 49% of the general survey respondents wanted the Council to prioritise signage and waymarking routes across Access land and this was the highest priority of work from the survey on managing Access land.

### **3.11 The Future for Access Land**

The consultation highlighted quite a high use of Access land, with only 3% of the 229 respondents never using Access land and 61% using it on a regular basis. Although there seems to be a high use of Access land, there is clearly still a demand for waymarked routes. Other deterrents to the use of Access land were that the respondent either did not know where the routes were, the condition of the network surface is an issue or the routes do not go where they want them to go. It is therefore quite clear that the public still see Access land, as a block of land with definitive routes on the ground, and prefer to use these routes.



**Statement of Action**

Take all reasonable steps to improve access for all.

Improve and increase access onto and across Access land.

Participate in collaborative partnership working with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial aims.

Provide and improve waymarking and signage on public rights of way, Access land and public green space.

**3.12 Common Land**

Much of the Access land in Powys is registered common land. In addition, there are also commons in the county that have public rights of access that pre-date the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Countryside Services manages the statutory process of Commons Registration, which involves maintaining legal registers of the location of common land and Town or Village Greens, together with the rights of

common (usually grazing rights) over them. That includes registration of common land and the associated rights within the Brecon Beacons National Park area.

Over and above statutory registration, the Definitive Map and Commons Registration team also have involvement in statutory and non-statutory management of common land.

The team's role includes advising members of the public about their rights of access to, and management of common land. The legislation relating to this is particularly complex, with its roots being in the medieval manorial system.

Some commons have no known owner and the Council only has limited powers to prevent encroachment on them, in place of the landowner. A number of these commons have been subject of management plans, agreed with the commoners, which include measures to maintain or improve public access, grazing and biodiversity on the land. Many of these schemes need to be reviewed, to make sure that they remain appropriate and relevant.

Other commons are subject to Schemes of Management, under which the Council has statutory management powers and responsibilities. The Council works with the local community to decide how best to exercise those, which may include the making bylaws to regulate public access.

Some commons are formally owned and managed by the Council. As the landowner, the Council then may be asked to decide whether to grant permission for activities that are outside any other access rights, or to share management responsibilities with the community. On one common, for example, the Council permits canoe launching and this has led to involvement in management of inland water access.

As such, management of common land and Town or Village Greens and providing advice to the public about their rights of access makes a significant contribution to public use of Access land in the county.

### **Statement of Actions**

Seek funding to support the review of non-statutory management plans for common land, to ensure that they remain up to date and relevant in terms of delivering public access opportunities.

As opportunities arise seek funding for other non-statutory management that would contribute to public access, on commons where the Council has management control.

### **3.13 Outdoor Recreation**

The Outdoor Recreation Service is now incorporated within Countryside Services. The Service manages a varied number of recreational and amenity open spaces throughout the county on behalf of the Council. The sites managed and maintained by the Service includes, playgrounds with fixed play equipment, allotment gardens, formal parks, open spaces, riverside access and woodlands. These sites are diverse and used by a wide and varied range of residents and visitors. The main remit of the Service is to maintain these areas to ensure that they are a safe and hazard free environment.

Officers will regularly visit and inspect all of their managed sites throughout the year and will arrange and programme all essential works that will be required. Upon discovery, the Service will procure and arrange for the relevant and appropriate contractors to complete the required jobs.

The Service has also worked with various internal partners including Housing, (offering advice on tree management and grounds maintenance issues). Education, providing advice with regards to fixed play equipment located within school grounds; and Town & Community Councils. Officers have had many varied dealings with the majority of Town & Community Councils within Powys, and include many discussions regarding the future management of numerous outdoor recreation sports fields, playgrounds and amenity spaces. This has resulted in asset transfers of ownership from the County Council to local ownership.

#### **Statement of Actions**

Take all reasonable steps to improve access for all.

Provide safe and appropriate outdoor facilities.

## **Section 4 - Theme B: Management and Enforcement of Public Rights of Way and Green Spaces**

### **4.1 Introduction**

Managing the PRoW network, Access land and National and Recreational Trails is the backbone of the work of Countryside Services. Fostering good working relationships with users, landholders, and all other interested parties has long been a high priority for the Service. However, more customer focused and efficient working methods and practices are continually being established.

The team of experienced staff in Countryside Services is an invaluable resource. Importance must be placed on retaining this experience and providing development opportunities.

### **4.2 Existing Policies and Working Practices**

The current policies and working practices largely stem from the original ROWIP produced in 2007. The development of working practices has been carried out over the years, to provide the best possible service within budgetary constraints. The *Condition of the Rights of Way Network* in Section 2 highlights the current state of the network and the resources needed to bring it into a satisfactory state of repair to meet statutory obligations. As these extra resources are extremely unlikely in the foreseeable future, prioritisation is of paramount importance to ensure that existing funding is directed to provide the most cost effective use of resources and to achieve the highest standard of access for the public.

### **4.3 Powys Countryside Volunteers**

The Powys Countryside Volunteers team is an innovative partnership that is delivering increased and improved access to the Powys countryside. As an example, in 2017 the volunteer workforce installed 10 bridges and boardwalks, and 4 flights of steps. Volunteer work-hours also increased from 150 per month in 2016 to 240 per month in 2017.



Countryside Services employs a Volunteer Co-ordinator whose work is supported by approximately 150 volunteers across Powys. The material and tools are paid for by external grant support.

Volunteers are valued members of the Countryside Services team. Working in partnership with stakeholders, recent years have seen a fundamental change in how Countryside Services engages with volunteers. Stakeholders felt that having works supervised by an Officer was slowing progress and limiting work. They wanted to see practical works happening on the ground without the need for Officer supervision so that more could be achieved. The Countryside Services team took up this challenge and by working with key stakeholders put together a pilot scheme to recruit Volunteer Team Leaders.

In 2015, six Volunteer Team Leaders (VTLs) were recruited and received training in Risk Assessments, Site Supervision, CAT scanning, First Aid and Manual Handling. VTLs now organise and supervise work days around the county. The pilot scheme is proving to be successful and the ambition is to extend the project across the county; perhaps through closer working with Town and Community Councils. There is also scope to expand the range of tasks undertaken by volunteers, with some people expressing an interest in administration or research-related opportunities.

At present, a pilot project is looking to develop the use of community led volunteers that are maintaining, repairing and improving public access to their own priorities and demands. Such a project and method of working should be developed to ascertain whether this is viable.

<p><b>Statement of Actions</b></p> <p>Take all reasonable steps to improve access for all.</p> <p>Be effective and efficient in the recruitment, retention and management of the volunteer workforce.</p> <p>Identify and provide opportunities to increase the responsibilities and scope of work able to be carried out by the volunteer workforce.</p>
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## 4.4 Enforcement

An Enforcement policy has been developed and published, and it has set out the approach to be taken by Officers in exercising their countryside access enforcement duties. This will ensure that legislation is effectively complied with, that a consistent approach based on best practice is taken in each instance, and that Powys takes fair and efficient enforcement action when necessary.

Enforcement can be informal, which is often done by approaching and negotiating with a landholder, or it can be formal by the serving of notice or direct prosecution through the courts. In the vast number of cases, enforcement work is conducted informally and resolved successfully. The Enforcement Officer carries out both informal and formal enforcement work. However, only 25% of the survey respondents were satisfied and could see enforcement action being taken to remove obstructions.

Where formal notice is served on the Highway Authority, the legal obligations will be met. However, informal and formal enforcement will only take place as set out within the priorities of the Higher Tier Approach. The Council has developed the ROWIP to determine how it is to prioritise its resources. Any resource cannot be re-directed just because a legal notice has been served whatever justification is provided.

### Statement of Action

To continually open and have a well-signed public rights of way network.

Take effective enforcement action when and where necessary in accordance with policy and the Higher Tier Approach.

Publicise enforcement outcomes at least annually.

Take all reasonable steps to improve access for all.

## 4.5 Prioritisation of Works

The number of reports received regarding issues on the PRow network, far outweighs the availability of staff and resources to resolve them. In August 2017, there were in excess of 4,500 outstanding reports on file. After detailed discussion with the Local Access Forums, key interest groups and through

the ROW Committee, Powys County Council previously adopted a *Priority Community Area* approach. By using the number of reports weighted against the size of the network in each community, Rights of Way and Access Officers concentrated their time and budget in the communities identified as having the highest demand. This approach was successful for a number of years, however, in recent times Officers were not moving on from communities quickly enough, and that some communities were never receiving works at all.

The 2017 public consultations did not offer a clear steer in terms of prioritisation, however, discussions with Officers, the LAF and user groups has highlighted a desire for change. Therefore, a new system of prioritisation is proposed. The prioritisation will be delivered under a “Higher Tier Approach” (Appendix 2) where serious health and safety issues and externally funded projects for example will be a priority.

The first and foremost priority of the Council is to resolve significant health and safety issues. It should be noted that the range of health and safety issues are too numerous to mention. However, an example would be the reporting of a barbed wire fence obstructing a public right of way. Although a barbed wire fence is potentially a hazard, it would not be dealt with as a significant health and safety issue within the Higher Tier Approach.

The Higher Tier Approach will determine how the Service manages its resources with regard to public access. Within the Higher Tier Approach also sits the “Priority Project Area Approach” that will be providing the focus for Area Officers to develop their work programmes and to develop a network within a Community.

The Priority Project Area Approach will aim to prioritise and provide for improved access, appropriate to the needs of the community over a defined period. This may only be a short section of path that needs surfacing to provide multi-user access along a key route, targeted attention on a network of public rights of way, or a trail several miles long allowing access to a local viewpoint or a nearby settlement. The key is engaging with the local community and volunteers to find out what is most important to that area.

<p><b>Statement of Actions</b></p>
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<p>Develop and implement the Higher Tier Approach.</p>
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<p>To continually open and have a well-signed public rights of way network.</p>
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Effectively manage, monitor and maintain opened paths in a satisfactory condition.

## 4.6 Signage

The ROWIP General Survey showed that '*improved signage and waymarking*' is the second highest priority that respondents would most like to see improved.. A lack of way-marking was the most commonly encountered problem by those responding to the survey. Additionally, two of the key reasons people are discouraged from using public rights of way are "*feeling intimidated*" and "*not wanting to cross somebody else's land*". These concerns are largely focussed on the confidence of the user, for which signage and waymarking will greatly assist.

Countryside Services in the majority of cases will install a fingerpost where the PRoW meets a metalled road, once the path has been opened or has been determined to be in a satisfactory condition. Waymarker discs are also installed along the path as required. It is important that surveyed paths are only waymarked if there are no obstructions, so as to maintain and improve confidence levels.

The level of waymarking will be appropriate to the landscape and likely level of use. The intensity of waymarking will generally be higher in areas with an anticipated greater level of use, such as near urban areas and on promoted Recreational Trails. In the expansive upland and remote areas, waymarking will be more selective.

Generally, signage is not permitted on the public rights of way for the use of promoted routes by external partners. It is normal practice that should such a promoted route be waymarked, that any literature should reference the following of a public right of way already waymarked. However, in exceptional circumstances, waymarking by external partners could be permitted with the approval of the Portfolio Holder, other than on a National or Recreational Trail. Matters to be considered before permission for limited waymarking to be given include the availability of external funding, the standard of works and the long-term sustainability of the route so as not to increase the financial burden on the Service.

Signage also covers the conveyance of information to users along routes. To assist both landholders and users, Countryside Services has produced a wide

range of information signs such as ‘*Please close the gate*’. Other notices for use in a number of circumstances have also been provided and these have been consistently welcomed by landholders.

Although there seems to be a high use of Access land, there is clearly still a demand for waymarked routes. In addition to the 49% wanting waymarked routes, reasons for deterring use of Access land was the respondent either did not know where the routes were, the condition of the network surface was an issue or the routes do not go where they want them to go. It is therefore quite clear that the public still see Access land as a block of land with definitive routes on the ground, for which using those routes is the preferred choice.

Signage may also be required for the recreational green space open to the public to ensure compliance with health and safety, but also to adequately inform the public of information.

#### **Statement of Action**

Provide and improve waymarking and signage on public rights of way, Access land and public green space.

Develop volunteer capacity to support the County Council to install waymarking and signage on paths that are assessed as being fully open for use.

Where approved by Portfolio Holder work with external organisations to deliver improved signage and waymarking.

## **4.7 Health and Safety**

As with nearly all areas of work, health and safety plays an integral role in how Countryside Services operates. This not only applies to the welfare of Council staff, volunteers and contractors, but the Council also has a duty of care to anybody utilising PRow and any green space managed by Countryside Services. This is in addition to the landholder’s legal responsibilities regarding PRow. As a consequence, reports of serious health and safety risks are treated as a high priority and dealt with urgently. It is for

Countryside Services Officers to assess the level of risk and decide when something is deemed to be a health and safety concern.

Work is continuous in managing and improving the capability of the Services' volunteer workforce, so that Volunteer Team Leaders can manage volunteers undertaking practical tasks. The application of health and safety law is integral in how this is managed so as much volunteer time as possible is unsupervised whilst ensuring safe and flexible working arrangements.

## **4.8 Biodiversity**

Powys County Council is required to maintain and enhance biodiversity when carrying out all its functions, as set out under s.6 Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The section states that *'A public authority must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems...'*

There is considerable interaction between public access and the wildlife-rich habitats across Powys. Many areas have statutory designations, such as the Pumlumon and Berwyn Mountains, designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, or the Elan Valley; attracting European Special Protection Area and Special Area for Conservation status as well.

Many of Powys' rivers are also designated as SSSIs. The River Wye is also designated as a Special Area for Conservation, to reflect the wildlife being of European importance. The Montgomery Canal, some of which forms part of the Offa's Dyke Path and Severn Way, is similarly designated for its aquatic wildlife. Careful consideration has to also be made of the number of notifiable species that are not necessarily found on designated land, and how the management of public access and recreational activities inland can affect the river and its wildlife.

The importance of these designations and notifiable species clearly has implications for countryside access work; in seeking appropriate permissions, in considering design, promotion, etc. There can also be a legal tension between highway and wildlife law, and this is largely dealt with by regulating public access, or seeking appropriate permissions to maintain and enhance biodiversity whilst at the same time undertaking works to maintain or improve public access.

Wildlife and wildlife law also has implications for the timing of access work, such as being careful to avoid cutting vegetation in woodlands, or along hedgerows, when nesting birds may be present.

Biodiversity and the ecosystem we live in is intrinsic to our enjoyment of the countryside, and public rights of way and Access land is in the majority the means by which the majority of us can directly experience the wildlife that Powys has to offer. Our biodiversity-rich landscape is recognised as being a key asset to tourism, which plays a major role in Powys' economy.

The key to sustaining our enjoyment will be to maintain the careful balance between conservation and recreation. Supporting tourism measures that conserve and enhance the landscape and its' biodiversity, are key priorities.

It has been considered that the ROWIP does not require a screening exercise under Article 2(a) of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.

## **4.9 Access to Water**

Inland water in Powys includes features such as reservoirs, lakes, rivers and canals. There are a number of locations in Powys where there are a significant amount of water features, such as; the Elan Valley, Lake Vyrnwy, Clywedog reservoir as well as the Wye and Severn rivers.

The Council has a role to play in providing access to the water to provide and improve public access provision across Powys.

## **4.10 Agri- Environment Schemes, Brexit and Horizon Scanning**

Glastir is the current agri-environment scheme in place for landholders in Wales. Any landholder entering into Glastir will not be treated preferentially, but the same as any landholder with a public right of way on their holding.

With the withdrawal from the European Union; there is almost certainly going to be changes to how agriculture is to be publicly funded in the future. It is considered likely that for any 'public benefit' landholders provide, they will get an element of public funding to replace the current regime of subsidy payments. Although agri-environment schemes have a public benefit in improving biodiversity and the natural habitat, there is also the potential to provide improvements to public rights of way.

There are always the possibility of changes to primary legislation in Wales, which would lead either to divergence or convergence with legislation in England. The ROWIP cannot predict future legislative changes within the lifetime of the Plan, but rather that it should be flexible enough to account for any future changes.

**Statement of Action**

Any changes to the subsidy payments for landholders should be a consideration in how the Council priorities its resources in the future.

DRAFT



## **Section 5 - Theme C: Definitive Map and Statement**

### **5.1 Introduction**

The Definitive Map and Statement (DMS) is the legal document that records the location and status of public rights of way. The Definitive Map and Statement thereby underpins the work of the whole Service. It is also a vital tool in answering questions relating to local land charges, planning applications and *agri-environment scheme* applications.

### **5.2 Local Context**

The former County Councils of Montgomeryshire, Radnorshire and Breconshire were dissolved in 1974 and since that time Powys County Council has been responsible for the maintenance and review of three complete Definitive Maps and Statements.

Since 1974 several administrative boundary changes have occurred, resulting in Powys becoming responsible for a substantial portion of a fourth Definitive Map and Statement from the former Clwyd County Council, and smaller areas from West Glamorgan and Carmarthenshire. The current Definitive Map and Statement of Powys now comprises approximately 300 A1 map sheets.

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority has delegated powers to make its own Public Path Orders and Definitive Map Modification Orders within Powys. However, Powys County Council retains overall responsibility for the whole Brecknockshire Definitive Map and Statement (i.e. for consolidation and publication).

### **5.3 The Definitive Map and Commons Registration Team**

Since the ROWIP for Powys was first published in 2007, the Definitive Map team and Commons Registration team have been merged. Both statutory registers are now managed by two staff members.

The work of this team includes responsibility for:

- Management and processing of Public Path Orders and evidential Modification Orders;
- Overseeing property searches;
- Managing the digital dataset of public rights of way for the county, which will be used to republish the Definitive Map and which underpins the team's countryside access management database;
- Management of the Commons Register, including providing advice to members of the public about their access rights and responsibilities on common land and its management.

## **5.4 Legal Searches on the Definitive Map**

The DMS is in daily use for land charges, planning applications and private searches. These demand an accurate response and an up-to-date DMS. In 2006, over 1600 land charges searches were received. Since July 2016, all Local Land Charges (CON29) searches have included a question about public rights of way and the information required is much more detailed. As a result, the number of public rights of way searches received by Countryside Services has increased to around 1800 per year.

Responding to this increased volume of searches has been greatly facilitated by use of the digital datasets that have been produced for the county, showing public rights of way and legal deposits under section 31(6) of the Highways Act 1980.

## **5.5 Legal Events altering the Definitive Map and Statement**

'Legal events' are orders that change or correct details of public rights of way recorded on the DMS and include: Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) and Public Path Orders (PPOs) made by the County Council, Magistrates Court Orders, Side Roads Orders made by central government and Enabling Acts of Parliament required for major civil-engineering projects, such as reservoir construction.

The process to alter the Definitive Map by DMMO or PPO is a very public one, with all interested parties including affected landowners being consulted. A period of public advertisement follows the order making, to allow any objections to be lodged. If there are any, a local public inquiry before an inspector is normally held to hear these and determine the outcome.

## **5.6 Outstanding Work and assessment of the condition of the Definitive Map**

### **5.6(i) Consolidation**

‘Consolidation’ of a DMS is the formal process of updating and re-publishing the set of map sheets on a more modern map base, and incorporating details of legal changes that have been made. This requires a significant amount of staff time and other resources.

Using ROWIP funding, a digital dataset has been produced for the whole of Powys; this shows the alignment and status of every public right of way in the county. Some checking and verification of its accuracy is still required, but it will be used as the basis for consolidating and republishing the Definitive Map for the whole county.

However, before republication can happen, the Definitive Statement needs to be updated to show the changes made as a result of legal events. Currently, there are over 400 legal events that are yet to be incorporated into the Definitive Statement.

### **5.6(ii) Legal Orders**

The work of the Definitive Map and Commons Registration team has become increasingly dominated by backlogs of both PPOs and DMMOs.

In recent years, when resources have been available, specialist external contractors have been commissioned to undertake time-consuming tasks such as interviewing witnesses and researching documentary evidence at archives. However, the staff time available to address these applications has been reduced since the 2007 ROWIP was published. Because of that, there are total of 10 pending applications that are in various stages of processing, as at the start of 2018. This represents an estimated minimum of 5-6 years’ work to process existing DMMO applications, within current staffing and budgets.

PPO applications suffer from a similar problem, with around 180 cases currently in the backlog. This represents an estimated minimum of 10 years work at current resource levels. The numbers of new applications have reduced over the last few years; there are now on average, around 6-10 new applications per year, as compared to around 15-20 new applications per year in 2009. This has been achieved by making potential applicants aware of the

backlog and priority system when an initial enquiry is made and by exploring alternative solutions with them.

Since 2007, systems have been put in place to allow applicants to undertake more of the preliminary work themselves. This does significantly reduce officer time dealing with cases, and allows applications to be processed more quickly. To support this approach, an information pack has been produced to facilitate applicants undertaking pre-order consultations themselves. To date, this approach has been offered to those who are required to seek a diversion of a path because it is affected by proposed development. It is now intended to extend that opportunity to more applicants, in a phased way, so that the oldest applications are addressed first.

However, because of the number of applications already on file, significant backlogs in PPO and DMMO work are likely to remain, unless more resources are consistently made available to address the problem.

### **5.6(iii) Errors and Anomalies (Definitive Map Review)**

Public rights of way shown on the Powys DMS contain a range of anomalies that limit their usefulness. Examples range from “dead-ends” at farmyards, buildings, un-adopted roads or old parish or county boundaries, to changes in status and “missing links” between the Definitive Map record and the List of Streets. Some may simply be caused by mapping errors at earlier production stages, or they can result from something inherently wrong with the information upon which the first maps were based.

Although the ‘closing’ of the Definitive Map in 2026 has not been brought into effect in Wales, there has been sustained public interest in “Lost Ways.” This is a phrase used to describe paths which have never been identified for recording on the DMS. The extent of this phenomenon cannot be easily quantified due to its very nature.

Powys County Council has taken the view that priority should be given to resolving problems on paths that are already recorded on the DMS, before seeking to research and record new routes. This is supported by the results of the recent ROWIP survey; the responses suggest that diversions to resolve anomalies on existing paths are a higher priority for the public than recording new ones.

It has been provisionally concluded that about 2,000 anomalies exist throughout Powys. If every anomaly were to become a potential DMMO case, the resource implications would be enormous.

ROWIP funding between 2007 and 2017 has been invaluable in seeking to address anomalies through Public Path Orders. This has been approached through use of external contractors to pro-actively address anomalies on a community by community basis. In the communities nominated so far, uptake by landowners has been good.

Continued resource to deal with anomalies via Public Path Orders is needed. Otherwise, the backlog of DMMO cases may rise and this will be much more resource-intensive to address; with no certainty that a solution will be reached that is acceptable to both landowners and path users.

## **5.7 Current Policies and Working Practices**

### **5.7(i) Prioritisation for Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs)**

The demand for DMMOs greatly outstrips the current capacity to supply. As a consequence, prioritisation of casework has to apply and Committee has approved a “statement of priorities”. Factors such as the potential benefit of a DMMO application to the local PRow network can be considered, as well as whether efficiency gains can be made through combining the research effort of more than one claim in a given area. Whilst chronological order remains the initial basis for prioritisation, other factors determine whether one is promoted in the queue.

The responses to the public survey carried out in 2016-17 indicates that a review of priorities may be appropriate. Respondents ranked the following as taking the highest priority:

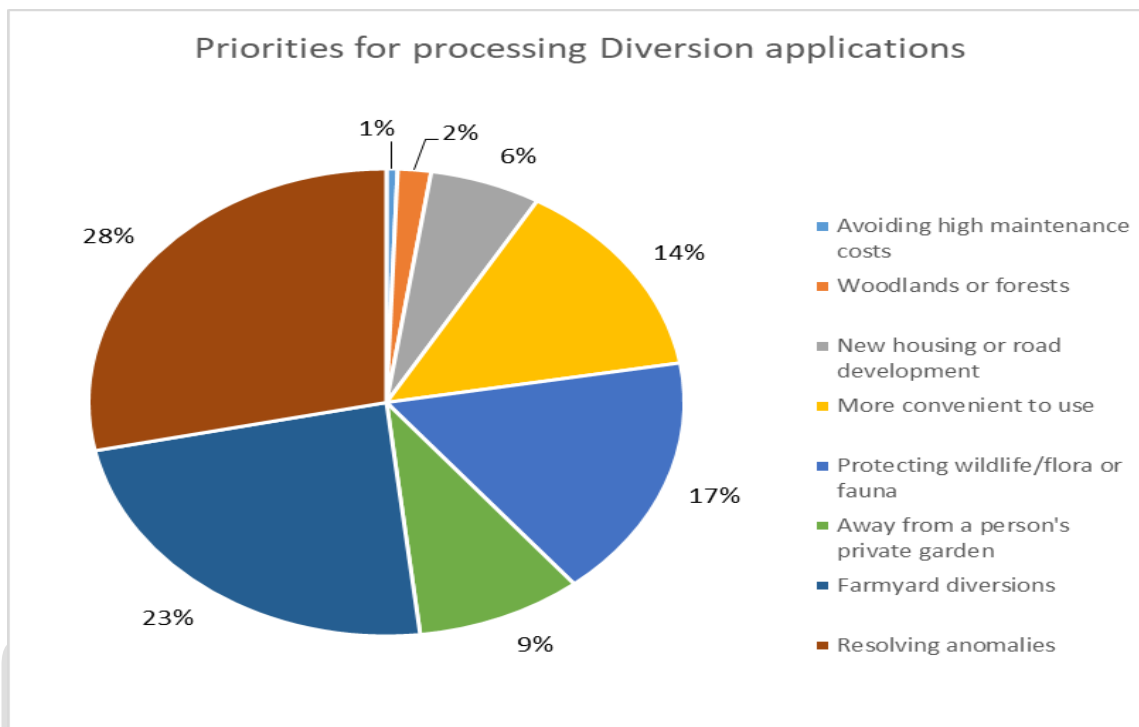
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>% of sample</b>
Applications where someone's privacy or business are affected	<b>1</b>	<b>31%</b>
By date of receipt	<b>2</b>	<b>31%</b>
Applications where adding or upgrading a public right of way should add significantly to the network e.g. a missing link	<b>3</b>	<b>9%</b>
Applications where the possible error has meant that the public cannot use the path at all e.g. the path on the map passes through a very old building	<b>4</b>	<b>8%</b>
Applications affecting sites where development is proposed	<b>5</b>	<b>3%</b>
Applications that have strong supporting evidence	<b>6</b>	<b>3%</b>

Table 8 Prioritisation for DMMOs

### **5.7(ii) Prioritisation for Public Path Orders (PPOs)**

Officers have delegated authority to prioritise PPO applications, in accordance with the merits of the case. To help potential applicants to understand the rationale that is being used to allocate priorities, a working practice was approved by the former Rights of Way Committee in 2010 and is still in use now. The priorities are as follows, highest priority first:

1. Proposals where a path is affected by permitted development; applicants must carry out their own preliminary work.
2. Proposals removing significant maintenance liabilities or those resolving immediate health and safety risks; these include for example, paths affected by river erosion.
3. Proposals resolving longer-term, potential health and safety risks and those resulting in overall improvement to the rights of way network; this includes resolving anomalies and moving paths out of working farmyards.
4. Proposals that are felt to be primarily in the interests of the applicant (but not related to permitted development); this includes diversions away for residential property for privacy reasons.



The ROWIP survey responses suggested that these priorities are broadly in line with those of the public. Officers have been given authority to make and confirm Orders in uncontested cases.

### **5.7(iii) Charging Policy for Public Path Orders**

Charging levels for PPOs vary widely across England & Wales. In 2010, Powys County Council reviewed its policy. The administration fee set for making an order, under both the Highways Act 1980 and the Town and Country Planning Act 1949 was set at £1,500, with additional and actual costs levied for the newspaper advertisements that must be placed. It was decided that the costs should be increased annually in line with inflation, where positive, without the need for further formal review. The administration fee in 2017-18 is £1,542.

The cost of diverting restricted byways and BOATs in a Magistrates Court is more difficult to assess, but is likely to be in the region of £1,500.

There are categories of exemption from charging, such as in the resolution of anomalies, or other public benefits and issues of public safety such as farmyard diversions.

## **5.8 Record of Limitations**

Public rights of way, being public highways, should be free from obstruction for the passage of the user. There were many structures already in existence when the Definitive Map was first drawn up (such as stiles and gates), and these are referred to as lawful limitations. A pragmatic approach is used to determine what the lawful limitation is; this is covered in the structures policy.

However, landholders for various reasons often need to erect new fence-lines. When this happens, they need to apply to the Council for an authorisation of a new structure under s.147 Highways Act 1980. If an application is not submitted or authorised, then any new structure would be an obstruction to the public highway, which would be a criminal offence.

When authorising a new structure, Countryside Services will always take into account the “least restrictive principle”, and consequently there will be a presumption against a stile. Any authorisation issued will be recorded on a database, with details of the structure and its location.

The standard of the structure is of importance, and any such authorisation will cite the current British Standard or of a standard acceptable to the Council. Authorisations only refer to a current standard, in case there are revisions in the future.

## **5.9 Conclusions and Actions for the Future**

The main problem faced by the Definitive Map Team is the lack of resources to maintain the accuracy of the DMS record and improve its quality and utility, while keeping pace with Order applications.

The work involved in legal orders is increasingly complex, with the evolution of case law and an increased use of consultants and lawyers to challenge the decisions of the Council.

Overall, the PPO workload has increased since 2007, but the number of new applications per year has significantly reduced. The issue now is to try to reduce the existing backlog and continue to deal with new proposals where a PPO is the only reasonable solution available. Examples include paths illegally obstructed by buildings given planning consent many years ago by predecessor authorities, or not subject to the planning process at all. Although the Highways Act 1980 gives the County Council power to remove



them, the moral authority to do so perhaps 20 years after the event is not so obvious.

The DMMO backlog is growing, because the staff time to deal with these applications has reduced since 2007. Digitisation of archive records so that they can be viewed on a public website has been of assistance in reducing the time needed to inspect documents. Tithe Maps, for example, can now be seen on the 'Places of Wales' website. It is only to be hoped that further records will be made available in this way. Other than that, it is difficult to see how anything other than changes to legislation could increase the efficiency with which these applications can be processed.

There are many advantages to having a digitally produced version of the DMS, although maintaining a large paper version cannot currently be avoided. The digital dataset is already proving invaluable in allowing other Council services access to public rights of way data to inform their work, as well as underpinning the work of the Countryside Services team.

The next step is to publish the dataset on the Council website. Although it will not replace the paper-based record for those needing information for legal reasons e.g. property searches, it will certainly be of assistance to members of the public wishing to use public rights of way or report problems in a large rural county; where visiting Council offices to inspect the paper record may involve a long journey.

### **Statement of Actions**

- Achieve an accurate and up-to-date Definitive Map and Statement.
- Make the Definitive Map and Statement widely available on the website and other appropriate formats.

## Section 6

### Theme D: Publicity and Promotion Review

#### 6.1 Introduction

Countryside Services sees the provision of information as important and provides a range of leaflets, guidebooks and online resources. All information is available in Welsh and English. Currently no publications are available in large print or braille; however, copies of the information in electronic form can be sent out, so that people can enlarge them to a size to suit their needs. Throughout the design process, thought is given to making the information as accessible as possible in line with corporate standards.

Current information includes:

- The *Accessible Powys* series promoting routes, activities and accommodation.
- Leaflets aimed at providing information for landholders and developers.
- Information promoting various routes across the county.

#### 6.2 Information for the Public and Professionals

As well as guides to encourage people to use the PRow and Trails in Powys, Countryside Services also produces a range of specific literature covering what services are available to assist key stakeholders.

The *Public Rights of Way in Powys: A Guide for Farmers, Managers and Landholders* has been very popular and sets out the legal background to public rights of way and their rights and responsibilities. The guide was produced in conjunction with the Country Land and Business Association, Farmers Union of Wales and the National Farmers Union and has been distributed widely across Powys.

The *Development and Public Rights of Way: A Practitioners Guide* is aimed at raising awareness of PRow law within the Planning System. It is envisaged that the guide will help minimise conflict between public access and planning developments.

### **Statement of Action**

Review publications to ensure they are accurate and up to date and to distribute effectively.

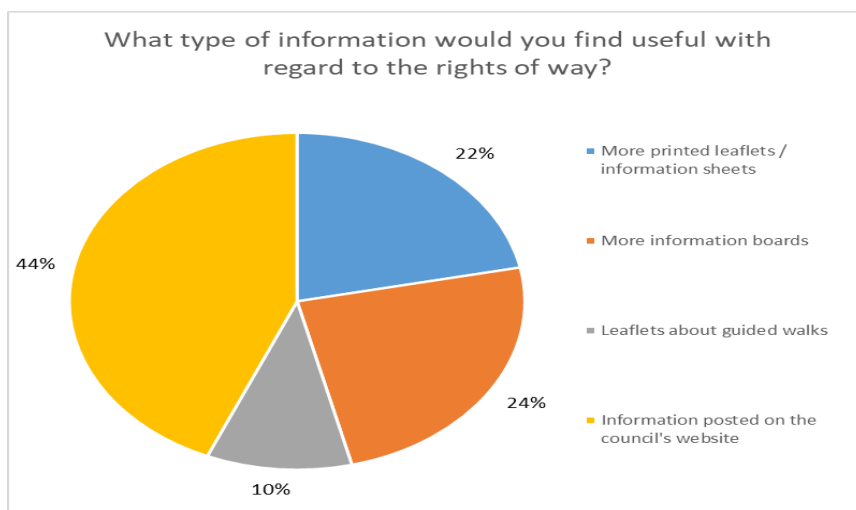
## **6.3 External Publications**

As well as the guides and leaflets produced by Powys County Council, there are a huge number produced by outside organisations and groups. These publications vary in quality and nature. Routes publicised by external bodies will not receive maintenance and promotion, unless it is incidental with another priority of the County Council.

## **6.4 Website**

Countryside Services has web pages within the Powys County Council's website. The web pages provide a range of information regarding PRow and the work of Countryside Services. The webpages are still under review and further development is planned. There are plans to have a digitised interpretation of the Definitive Map on the webpage, and interactive maps so users can find promoted route information. Detailed information is also included on PRow maintenance, enforcement, Access land and links to the other council pages, which provide information on local countryside amenity sites.

Information posted on the council's website which highlights the routes and the Definitive Map were deemed to be the most useful forms of information the team could provide for users of the network. 44% of the survey responses felt that information on the website would be useful as shown in the graph below. This was followed by information boards positioned at the start of or at a half way point of a route. There has been a change from the 2007 survey results and a clear move away from users wanting printed leaflets or literature about the rights of way network.



It is important to have a comprehensive and detailed web presence to provide information, which may also help to reduce the number of enquiries that the Service receives.

## 6.5 On site Information

Another form of information provided by Countryside Services is site based. Information can take many forms from a standard waymark disc, to notices stating '*Please shut the gate*', and '*No through route*', etc to interpretation boards detailing local history, geography and route plans.

The Countryside Act 1968 imposes a duty on highway authorities to signpost all PRoW where they leave a metalled road and along the route where it may be confusing. Countryside Services has a working practice of waymarking routes once they have been opened up from metalled road to metalled road. Beyond signposting and waymarking; promoted long-distance Recreational Trails may have a higher standard of information provision, such as providing destination and distances to settlements on fingerposts.

Many Recreational Trails also have interpretation boards installed at appropriate points. A stone cairn with panorama boards has been constructed along the Kerry Ridgeway, whilst bronze bibles produced by the local community provide information along the Ann Griffiths Walk. Tastefully and carefully done, interpretation can enhance a route experience.

### **Statement of Action**

Make digital information on public rights of way and open spaces available on the website.

All information produced by Countryside Services will aim to be available, appropriate, accurate and accessible.

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# Section 7 - Internal and External Partners

Countryside access is not the exclusive domain of Countryside Services, but rather there is an inter-relationship with a range of other internal and external partners. This section briefly looks at some of these, and how they are linked with public rights of way and countryside access.

## 7.1 Internal Partners within Powys County Council

Improving communication between the different sections of the Council, is one of the main methods to reduce any burden on finances by increasing efficiency.

Countryside Services has been working over a number of years to improve internal communication. Some examples of internal working partnerships are outlined below.

<p><b>Statement of Action</b></p> <p>Participate in collaborative partnership working with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial aims.</p>
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### 7.1 (i) Planning Services

The work of Powys County Council’s Planning Services can affect public rights of way and countryside. The granting of planning permission for buildings can have a negative impact if paths and access are obstructed. In seeking to tackle this issue, Countryside and Planning Services published *Development and Public Rights of Way: A Practitioners Guide*, which has been distributed to all developers and agents operating in Powys as well as Community Councils. It will also be made available to others seeking planning permission.

By advising developers, and commenting on planning applications in the early stages of the planning process, this will help minimise problems later on.

#### **Statement of Action**

Seek mitigation from the planning development process where it is appropriate.

### **7.1 (ii) Highways Transport and Recycling**

Highways Transport and Recycling (HTR) and Countryside Services work together to look after selected PRow. Generally, surfaced paths within urban areas are managed directly by HTR, alongside other surfaced roads and footways.

It is also important that there is close liaison between the Services, as the List of Streets is managed by Highways Transport and Recycling. The List of Streets and Definitive Map and Statement as legal documents both show public highways, but it is only the Definitive Map and Statement that show highways that carry conclusive public rights. The List of Streets only shows highways that are publicly maintainable such as unclassified roads; which are also shown as Other Routes with Public Access (ORPAs) on Ordnance Survey maps.

If a PRow as shown on the Definitive Map and Statement is publicly maintainable, then it should also be shown on the List of Streets so there is a strong relationship between the two public documents.

### **7.1(iii) Travel Officer for Powys County Council**

Powys County Council employs a Travel Officer who works closely with Officers across the Authority within Road Safety, Traffic Management, Highway Design and Tourism Services and with external partners (such as local community groups, Sustrans and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency and the Regional Transport Consortia (TraCC)).

The County Council's aims and objectives in respect of cycling are set out in its Regional Transport Plan (RTP) for the Regional Transport Consortia.

Around 8% of car journeys in Wales are less than 1 mile, 26% are under 2 miles and 60% are under 5 miles.<sup>20</sup> When seen alongside employee and school travel surveys undertaken by Powys County Council, statistics such as these indicate significant potential to transfer shorter journeys from the car to walking or cycling. As such, one of the key objectives of this post is to implement the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.

To encourage more walking and cycling, the County Council and its partners aim to:

- Provide coherent, linked pedestrian and cycle routes – on or “off-road”.
- Build walking and cycling routes into new development design - e.g. segregated cycle or shared use routes.
- Provide safer environments – street lighting, Toucan, Zebra or Pelican crossings and traffic calming.

### **7.1 (iv) Regeneration Services**

Tourism is a key remit of Regeneration Services, promoting and publicising access to the countryside in Powys. In partnership with Countryside Services, marketing information on the National and Recreational Trails is published, with an Accommodation Guide as well as the other promoted circular walks across Powys. This information is distributed at a local, national and international level.

### **7.1 (v) The Arts**

Discussions have begun over the potential of joint projects between Countryside Services and the Arts Development Officer. Enhancing the experience of access to the countryside with providing sculpture along a Recreational Trail is one idea that has been discussed.

### **7.1 (vi) Healthy Weights Steering Group**

Links have been developed with Public Health Wales and the Powys Teaching Health Board on formal and informal intervention regarding obesity levels, and a joined up approach to providing a healthy living.

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<sup>20</sup> DfT, National Travel Survey, 2004.



Countryside Services is a partner Service that can assist with delivering assets that will enable opportunities for physical activity and improved mental well-being.

**Statement of Action**

Develop and promote how public access contributes to health and well-being through the Council, Powys Teaching Health Board and Public Health Wales.

**7.2 External Partners**

Access to the countryside is not just the domain of Powys County Council. There is a wide spectrum of access provided by other individuals and organisations. Building strong and healthy external partnerships has always been central to the work of the Service.

This will be increasingly important with external funding opportunities as other organisations obtain funding, the Service can be a partner to deliver and provide advice on public access.

**Statement of Action**

Participate in collaborative partnership working with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial aims.

**7.2 (i) Landholders**

The vast majority of access through public rights of way and Access land is across privately owned land, and as such Countryside Services staff have to work in partnership with a huge number of individuals and groups who own or manage land. Building good partnerships with landholders is very important to manage and improve access to the countryside.

In association with the Powys LAF, the publication of ‘*Public Rights of Way: A guide to farmers, managers and landholders*’ has been part of the process of building relationships, providing information and giving confidence.

## 7.2 (ii) Town and Community Councils

Communication and positive relations with Powys' local Town and Community Councils is essential to successful engagement with local communities and management at a local level.

Local Councils are a consultee for proposed Public Path Orders and Modification Orders as well as Traffic Regulation Orders. Dialogue and participation is also sought from Area Officers before a work programme in communities start.

Consultation also showed that 64% of the Community Councils who responded indicated that they were involved in path management in some way. There were only 14 responses from Community Councils, but nevertheless there is scope to progress a closer working relationship with Community Councils.

Local councils can offer a significant contribution to the Service in developing and opening up paths in their areas. Local Councils also have powers to maintain publicly maintainable footpaths and bridleways under s.43 Highways Act 1980, as well as a number of other discretionary powers. Feedback and individual support to and from local landholders can make real differences in delivering more effective and efficient work programmes.

### **Statement of Action**

Liaise with Town and Community Councils before implementing works as part of a Project Area Approach.

Work in partnership with Town and Community Councils or constituted Cluster groups to repair, maintain and improve public access.

## 7.2 (iii) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority represent a key partner for the County Council. Through agreement, they act for the Council in managing and maintaining PRoW and in pursuing all Modification Order work related to their area of Powys. The National Park Authority also independently hold powers to carry out public path orders and can make traffic regulation orders for PRoW, but not other classifications of public highway.

The National Park Authority have undertaken their own research and published an independent ROWIP in liaison with the Council for the National Park area.

### **Statement of Action**

Work with internal and external partners to improve countryside access in Powys.

Develop efficient working practices that are mutually beneficial to the Council and the National Park Authority.

## **7.2 (iv) Natural Resources Wales & Natural England**

National Trails are substantially supported by NRW who also produce a number of key publications that provide best practice and observe at the Local Access Forum.

NRW is also the largest landholder in Powys, managing 19,000 hectares of Access land across the county, outside of the BBNP as well as the Welsh Government Woodland estate. In addition to the public rights of way network in the woodland estate, the forest roads also provide opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding without the need for permission.

The Offa's Dyke Path National Trail Officer is also jointly supported by Natural England and NRW.

## **7.2 (v) User Groups**

Interaction with user groups and their members happens in a variety of ways. The local membership can provide very effective 'eyes and ears' in monitoring and reporting issues affecting the path network. They significantly support the work of Officers in delivering work programmes through work with the Powys Countryside Volunteers and independently in undertaking surveys and guided walks.

User Group representatives also act as consultees for proposed legal orders, offering advice and comment to Officers from a local user perspective. At a national level, User Groups can also affect change through lobbying, and are

often able to promote issues on a political stage with greater effect than may be achieved by local authorities and their staff.

Working closely with local user groups takes place mainly through the Stakeholders Working Group, where there are regular meetings.

## **7.2 (vi) Canal and River Trust**

The Montgomery Canal offers a substantial access corridor within the Severn Valley, and has considerable links with the wider PRoW network. Much of it is designated as Offa's Dyke Path National Trail or Severn Way, and Countryside Services has worked in partnership to develop a series of circular trails linked to the canal. The Canal and River Trust are also central to maintaining and improving access along the towpath which mostly has permissive access.

## **7.2 (vii) Local Access Forums**

The Powys Local Access Forum (PLAF) is a statutory body that offers independent advice on outdoor recreation issues, and their membership includes a range of user and landholder interests. With Countryside Services Officers offering a secretariat service and acting as advisors to the LAFs, partnership working has led to the publication *Public Rights of Way: A guide for farmers, managers and landholders* and also *Public Rights of Way: A guide for woodland managers, owners and professionals*. A revision of the *Public rights of Way: A developers guide* is also on the work programme.

The LAF has also contributed significantly to the review of the ROWIP, development of working practices and priorities for Access land, and offer advice to the County Council on budgets and staffing issues. Within the consultation for the ROWIP, the LAF has advised the Service on its "Higher Tier Approach" and this has been beneficial and proactive in prioritising resources.

Within Glastir, the LAF also provides advice to WG on permissive access within the Glastir scheme and will provide recommendations on every application that is submitted.

## **7. 2 (viii) Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust**

The Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) is an educational charity and one of four regional trusts that cover Wales. Set up in the 1970s their

role has developed from the traditional ‘rescue archaeology’ type work to a more curatorial role in recent decades. The trust is based in two offices in Welshpool. The Trust keeps and updates the Regional Historic Environment Record on behalf of Powys County Council who partly helps to fund the organisation.

The promotion of the PRow network is also an opportunity to educate people on the archaeological sites of interest in the countryside they will be passing through. Interpretation boards along routes are another opportunity to educate and improve awareness on archaeological issues. If people are better educated on the historic landscape, then they are hopefully less likely to cause damage.

### **7.3 Neighbouring Local Authorities**

Powys County Council’s Countryside Services has worked in partnership with a number of neighbouring authorities over recent years.

Examples include the Walking with Offa project; the management and monitoring of Pistyll Rhaeadr by Denbighshire Countryside Services; joint local authority partnership groups to review, evaluate and promote the Wye Valley Walk and Severn Way; arrangements with Gwynedd CC to manage cross-border Access land; an agreement with the BBNPA to manage PRow in the National Park within Powys; joint arrangements with Gwynedd, Herefordshire and Shropshire to manage bridges along the County boundaries.

The list of partners of Countryside Services is extensive and only a few have been mentioned here. However, every partner is valued. Countryside Services, throughout the life of this Plan, will seek to extend and improve internal and external partnerships, and take all reasonable opportunities to improve access to the countryside of Powys.

#### **Statement of Action**

Participate in collaborative partnership working with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial aims.

Work in partnership with neighbouring local authorities. Consider and participate in cross-border initiatives, where benefits exceed investment.

Take the opportunity to learn from the best practice of other local authorities.

## **7.4 Walkers are Welcome**

Many towns and villages have gained “Walkers are Welcome” status, for which the purpose is to develop and promote walking in the town or village. This scheme of course has health and well-being benefits, as well as for tourism and visitors to the area. The Service will assist and advise on walking facilities where there has been consultation.

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**Powys County Council**  
**Countryside Services**

**Prioritisation of Works on Public Rights of Way**

When a report is received by Countryside Services, it will be assessed and logged. Priority 1 work will receive the most urgent attention, the higher the number, the lower the priority.

**Higher Tiered Approach**

Priority 1	Issues where risk has been assessed as significant in terms of potential harm to people, animals or property.
Priority 2	Reports of development being undertaken that are negatively affecting PRow or where there are re-occurring offences.
Priority 3	Work on external grant funded projects (including capital works on byways/bridges, WG or NRW funded projects etc.)
Priority 4	Issues reported on Powys recreational trails.
Priority 5	Priority Project Approach (see details below).
Priority 6	Glastir and Landowner Requests (supply materials only).
Priority 7	Maintenance of previously maintained routes → pass to volunteers (if works cannot be resolved by volunteers, issue to sit within prioritisation system as outlined here).
Priority 8	All other works.

Note - Where notice is served on the Highway Authority, legal obligations will be met. However, any works required will fit into the priority list above.

The maintenance of Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) are to be prioritised in the same way as other public rights of way, but the sustainability of the use of BOATs across Powys will be determined by the Council's "Motorised Access Strategy".

## Statement of Actions

- To continually open and have a well signed public rights of way network.
- Effectively manage, monitor and maintain opened paths in a satisfactory condition.
- Where approved by Portfolio Holder work external organisations to deliver improved signage and waymarking.
- Work in partnership with appropriate organisations and communities.
- Work with volunteers to support the management of National and Recreational trails.
- Improve path furniture to make National and Recreational Trails accessible for all.
- Promotional work needs to be fit-for-purpose and utilise new technology such as social media, Apps, websites and interactive interpretation.
- Take all reasonable steps to improve access for all.
- Provide safe and appropriate outdoor facilities.
- Improve and increase access onto and across Access land.
- Ensure the long terms success of the National and Recreational trails in Powys.
- Continue to implement 'least restrictive' access practices.
- Work with internal and external partners to improve countryside access in Powys.
- Ensure high quality gates and installation to allow easy access for horse-riders.
- Seek resources to manage and maintain the byway open to all traffic network.
- Work with stakeholders to improve provision, education and enforcement with regards to legal and illegal motorised access.
- Replace stiles with gates wherever possible.
- Identify and improve routes that are most likely to be accessed by people with mobility and sensory difficulties.
- All information produced by Countryside Services will aim to be available, appropriate, accurate and accessible.
- Increase the range and quality of public information in a variety of formats.
- Make digital information on public rights of way and open spaces available on the website.
- Be effective and efficient in the recruitment, retention and management of the volunteer workforce.
- Identify and provide opportunities to increase the responsibilities and scope of work able to be carried out by the volunteer workforce.
- Take effective enforcement action when and where necessary in accordance with policy and the Higher Tier Approach.
- Develop and implement the Higher Tier Approach.
- Provide and improve waymarking and signage on public rights of way, Access land and public green space.



- Any changes to the subsidy payments for landholders should be a consideration in how the Council priorities its resources in the future.
- Achieve an accurate and up to date Definitive Map and Statement.
- Make the Definitive Map and Statement widely available on the website and other appropriate formats.
- Develop and promote how public access contributes to health and well-being through the Council, Powys Teaching Health Board and Public Health Wales.
- Develop efficient working practices that are mutually beneficial to the Council and the National Park Authority.
- Participate in collaborative partnership working with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial aims.
- Liaise with Town and Community Council before implementing works as part of a Project Area Approach.
- Work in partnership with Town and Community Councils or constituted Cluster groups to repair, maintain and improve public access.
- Work in partnership with neighbouring local authorities. Consider and participate in cross-border initiatives, where benefits exceed investment.
- Take the opportunity to learn from the best practice of other local authorities.
- Review publications to ensure they are accurate and up to date and to distribute effectively.
- Seek funding to support the review of non-statutory management plans for common land, to ensure that they remain up to date and relevant in terms of delivering public access opportunities.
- As opportunities arise for other non-statutory management that would contribute to public access, on commons where the Council has management control, seek funding as appropriate to support that work.
- Recreational trails should not take priority over other PRoW, and that they should all be given equal priority.
- Seek mitigation from the planning development process where it is appropriate.
- Review current landholder grant policy.
- Where appropriate, opportunities should be taken to provide for short circular walks off a National or Recreational Trail where this allows for better access to accommodation providers or the trail is near to a settlement or place of interest.
- Publicise and provide press releases of formal enforcement at least annually.
- Develop volunteer capacity to support the County Council to install waymarking and signage on paths that are assessed as being fully open for use.

## **STATEMENT OF ACTIONS PRIORITIES**

### Theme A: Public Rights of Way and Open Air Recreation

1. To continually open and have a well signed public rights of way network.
2. Provide and improve waymarking and signage on public rights of way, Access land and public green space.
3. Effectively manage, monitor and maintain opened paths in a satisfactory condition.

### Theme B: Management and Enforcement of Public Rights of Way and Green Spaces

1. To continually open and have a well signed public rights of way network.
2. Effectively manage, monitor and maintain opened paths in a satisfactory condition.
3. Take effective enforcement action when and where necessary in accordance with policy and the Higher Tier Approach.

### Theme C: Definitive Map and Statement

1. Achieve an accurate and up to date Definitive Map and Statement.
2. Make the Definitive Map and Statement widely available on the website and other appropriate formats.

### Theme D: Publicity and Promotion Review

1. Review publications to ensure they are accurate and up to date and to distribute effectively.
2. Make digital information on public rights of way and open spaces available on the website.
3. All information produced by Countryside Services will aim to be available, appropriate, accurate and accessible.

# Key Findings report

Following a 12-week consultation on  
The Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan  
2018 - 2028



For consideration by and discussion with the LAF Sub Cttee and Full Group.

Date of report: January 2019

Report author: Sue Ling, Communications and Engagement Officer

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**Background to the service:**

The first Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) was produced by Powys ten years ago to meet the legislation set out under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. This legislation places a duty on local authorities to review and consult on their plan on a 10-year basis.

The plan sets out how the council is going to identify, prioritise and plan for any improvements so as to aid both access to, and enjoyment of, the network for all who wish to use it.

Powys has over 12,000 individual public rights of way which are used for recreation – particularly walking, cycling, horse-riding and driving “off-road”. The network is open to everyone and a right of way can consist of roads, paths and/or tracks – some of which go through Powys towns, the countryside and over private property.

**Background to the consultation/engagement etc.**

To comply with the duty, Powys County Council:

- Carried out a review of its current plan to establish and check progress on the objectives and actions listed within it.
- Consulted with a mix of interested stakeholders (the public, landowners, town and community councils, older people, access groups and the Local Access Forum) to capture their views on the current use of and condition of the rights of way network prior to drafting a revised plan.
- Produced said draft Rights of Way Improvement plan for the next ten years based on the feedback given and launched a follow-up 12-week consultation to capture views. This closed on Tuesday 15 January 2019.

**Report format:**

This report sets out the key results from the most recent survey undertaken and highlights any significant issues that need to be given due regard prior to a final plan being amended and approved.

The report also sets out the key views given via other channels including social media, written responses and emails and provides an overall conclusion.

## Response Overview

Just over 140 responses had been received via the online survey.

Alongside this a handful of more detailed email responses were received from organisations with a specific interest in the network namely:

- Powys Ramblers
- Elan Valley Trust
- National Farmers Union
- The Open Spaces Society
- Natural Resources Wales
- and a detailed response from a representative of the Local Access Forum

There were also a handful of comments made on council's corporate social media channels (Facebook and Twitter) in response to details of the consultation being announced and two emails were also received from residents again when details of the consultation were promoted via the Have Your Say webpage for the duration of the consultation period.

The legislation also sets out some very specific target groups that have to be engaged including any Local Access Forums that may exist in the county.

Both the sub group and the full Local Access Forum for Powys have been involved in previous discussions about the network and the new plan and they will be invited to discuss the findings from the consultation with a view to agreeing any changes/amendments prior to the final document being approved via the Council's Cabinet process.

## Key Survey Findings:

The key findings from the final survey are below.

141 survey responses were received in total. The majority were completed on-line and a couple received in paper format and input into the database.

The question by question analysis (pages 9 to 25) provides more detail per theme, tables and charts to highlight the key findings in particular the priorities ranked by respondents that will help to shape the delivery plan for the revised plan.

## Respondent Profile:

- 89% of respondents stated that they were Powys residents.
- 8% were organisations who used/promoted the network, 8% were visitors to Powys and 7% were volunteers. *(Please note: respondents could tick all answers that applied so the figures total over 100%).*
- Only three town and community councils responded to the survey – one who was involved in helping the council to monitor and maintain the network in their area. The other two had an interest in the network.

## Use of network:

- 78% of respondents were regular users of the network (come rain or shine) and 8% stated they were regular but seasonal users. (86% in total being regular users) 13% said they sometimes used the network.

*Note: In the earlier survey which closed in January 2018, the response was similar with 78% of respondents using the network come rain or shine and 11% using it on a seasonal basis. In 2006, 84% of respondents said they used the network per se. This question had a yes or no answer)*

- Five respondents said they didn't use the network but would like to and two people said they didn't use the network and didn't wish to.

## Theme A: Public Rights of Way and Open Air Recreation.

- 14 out of the 15 actions were supported by the vast majority of respondents.
- This support ranged from 79% to 97% with the top three being:
  - 1) JOINT TOP PRIORITY - Provide and improve appropriate way marking and signage on public rights of way, access land and public green space. (97%) **and** Effectively manage, monitor and maintain opened paths in a satisfactory condition. (97%)
  - 2) Work in partnership with appropriate organisations and communities. (96%)

3) JOINT THIRD PRIORITY - Take all reasonable steps to improve access for all (95%) **and** Ensure the long term success of the National and Recreational trails in Powys (95%) **Please refer to the table on page 10 for full details on each action.**

- Prioritising higher status paths within a community was the most controversial of the 15 actions in this theme with the least support. 59% supported it whilst 41% didn't. This action is repeated in Theme B and the figures were as close but slightly in reverse with 47% supporting the action and 53% choosing not to.
- 117 respondents selected their top three priorities from the 15 actions listed.
- In terms of selecting a top priority from the 15 actions listed, 36 respondents had chosen *'to continually open and have a well-signed network'*, 25 had chosen *'to effectively manage, monitor and maintain the network'* and 21 had selected *'to improve way-marking and signage'* **Please refer to the table on pages 11 & 12 for full ranking on each priority.**
- The key reasons given by respondents not supporting the action around the higher status paths were based on the view that this process would discriminate against local walkers and communities and that instead we should work with each community to agree their priorities.
- In terms of missing actions, some comments related to the themes that followed (e.g. enforcement) but other respondents suggested actions such as the conservation of the landscape views that people enjoyed, car parking provision and access to inland water.

### **Theme B: Management and Enforcement of the network**

- 9 out of the 11 actions were supported by the over 75% of respondents.
- This support ranged from 77% to 97% with the top three actions being:
  - 1) Provide and improve appropriate way marking and signage on public rights of way, access land and public green space. (97%)
  - 2) JOINT SECOND PRIORITY - To continually open and have a well-signed public rights of way network. (95%) **and** Effectively manage, monitor and maintain opened paths in a satisfactory condition. (95%) **and** Take all reasonable steps to improve access for all (95%)
  - 3) Work with external organisations to deliver improved signage and way marking. (93%) **Please refer to the table on page 14 for full details on each action.**
- The least supported action was again "Prioritise higher status paths within a community" followed by "Develop and implement the Higher Tier Approach". Less than half of respondents (47%) were in support on the action to prioritise higher



status paths with 53% opposing it. *See bullet point under Theme A.* This action was listed in both and in both instances generated a mixed view.

- The other action around the higher tier approach had more support with 65% supporting it and 35% opposing it but this was the next less supported action in Theme B.
- 79 respondents gave a view on which of the 11 actions they would put as their top priority. Similarly, to Theme A, those listed first were *'taking all reasonable steps to have an open and well-signed network'* which was a clear priority with 24 respondents placing this first, followed by 14 who had selected to *'Effectively manage, monitor and maintain opened paths in a satisfactory condition'* and nine people choosing *"to improve way-marking and signage"* **Please refer to the chart on page 15 for full details on the ranking.**
- Respondents who were not in favour of the action to prioritise higher status paths had given similar views as per those expressed in Theme A. Some were the same respondents. In terms of the higher tier approach respondents were concerned that if adopted reports about obstructions on the network would be ignored.
- There were a few suggestions around missing actions. These included providing sculpture and events to celebrate the network, lobby for more funding and protection of staff in the service. There were also calls for the actions to be more specific and detailed.

### **Theme C: The Definitive Map and Statement**

- Both actions received 95% support from respondents. The actions are:
- 1) Achieve an accurate and up-to-date Definitive Map and Statement.  
2) Make the Definitive Map and Statement widely available on the website and other appropriate formats.
- In terms of priorities, 65% stated that the action to achieve an accurate map should come first followed by promotion to make it fully availability. **Please refer to the table on page 18 to see the ranking.**
- From the 5% not in favour the key comments were more around individuals being aware that our budgets are stretched and not being too concerned about having an online map.
- A few ideas were put forward around missing actions. These included a suggestion that each town and community council had their own online version of the definitive map and that we commit to reducing the backlog of DMMOs and PPOs.

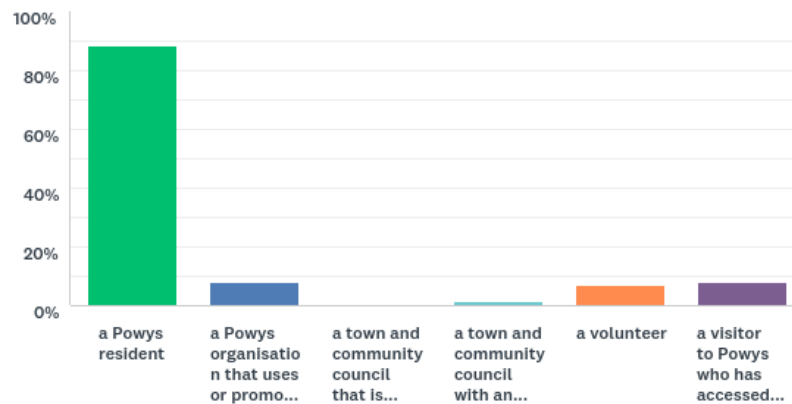
## Theme D: Promotion and Publicity of the network

- All four actions were supported by the vast majority of respondents. They were:
  - 1) All information produced by Countryside Services will aim to be available, appropriate, accurate and accessible. (97%)
  - 2) Make digital information on public rights of way and open spaces available on the website. (94%)
  - 3) Review publications to ensure they are accurate and up to date and to distribute effectively. (90%)
  - 4) Increase the range and quality of public information in a variety of formats. (85%)

**Please refer to the table on page 19 for full details on each action.**
- When asked to rank the actions in order of priority “*Review publications to ensure they are accurate and up to date and to distribute effectively.*” was deemed to be the top priority and ranked 1<sup>st</sup> by 136 respondents. This was closely followed by 124 respondents who had chosen “*Make digital information on public rights of way and open spaces available on the website*” as their priority. **Please refer to the table on page 20 for full details on each action.**
- Those who had chosen not to support the actions had made some comments. In the main these focused on budgets and best use of money. Respondents felt in essence there was no need to produce a digital definitive map. There was also a view expressed that updating publications wasn’t a priority and should be left until a point when resources were available.
- Missing Actions. There was only really one clear new action that was suggested. This was around promotion with the respondent stating “Promote large community map displays on all village halls.”

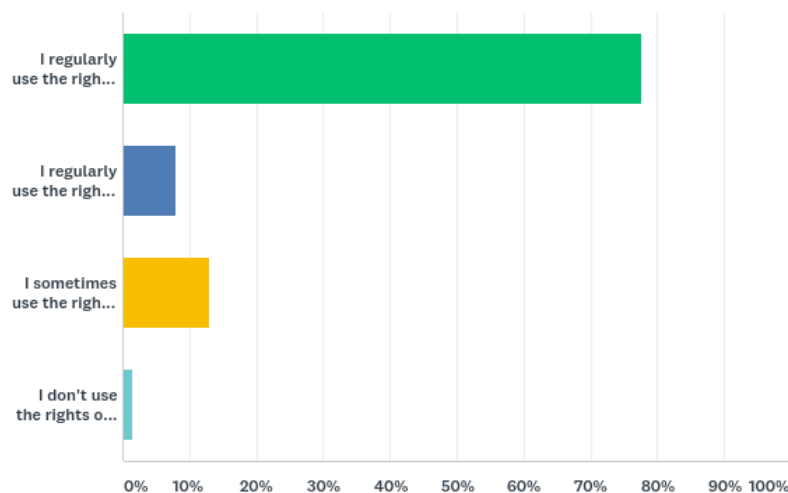
## SURVEY – Question by question analysis

Q1 Firstly can you state on what basis you are responding to this survey. Are you...?



Respondents could select more than one answer. 88% of respondents were Powys residents and 8% from a Powys organisation which promoted the network. A further 8% stated they were volunteers and another 8% were tourists. Only one town and community council who was involved in the maintenance of the network responded although another two who had an interest did.

Q2 Which of the following best describes your use of the public rights of way in Powys?



78% of respondents stated that they used the network come rain or shine all year round whilst 8% stated they did so on a more seasonal basis. 13% used the network sometimes leaving 1% who didn't but said they would like to.

## Theme A: Public Rights of Way and Open Air Recreation

**Q3. Please look at each action and tick those you support and those you don't.**

*Actions with the wording "ThemeB" were also listed in Q7 under Theme B. The second figure in brackets below is the combined average percentage when adding the two scores together from both themes and dividing by 2. The figures in green with an asterisk depict the top three actions whilst the one in red depict the least supported.*

Action	Supported	Not Supported
Provide and improve appropriate way marking and signage on public rights of way, access land and public green space. <b>ThemeB</b>	<b>97% *</b> (97%)	<b>3%</b> (3%)
Effectively manage, monitor and maintain opened paths in a satisfactory condition. <b>ThemeB</b>	<b>97% *</b> (96%)	<b>3%</b> (4%)
Work in partnership with appropriate organisations and communities.	<b>96%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Ensure the long term success of the National and Recreational trails in Powys.	<b>95%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Take all reasonable steps to improve access for all. <b>ThemeB</b>	<b>95%</b> (95%)	<b>5%</b> (5%)
To continually open and have a well-signed public rights of way network. <b>ThemeB</b>	<b>95%</b> (95%)	<b>5%</b> (5%)
Work with volunteers to support the surveying and maintenance of National and Recreational trails.	<b>94%</b>	<b>6%</b>
Participate in collaborative partnership working with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial aims.	<b>93%</b>	<b>7%</b>
Improve and increase access onto and across access land.	<b>92%</b>	<b>8%</b>
Seek funding to support the review of non-statutory management plans for common land, to ensure that they remain up to date and relevant in terms of delivering public access opportunities.	<b>90%</b>	<b>10%</b>
Provide safe and appropriate outdoor facilities.	<b>88%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Utilise new technology such as social media, apps, websites and interactive interpretation to promote the network.	<b>87%</b>	<b>13%</b>
Improve path furniture to make National and Recreational trails accessible for all.	<b>87%</b>	<b>13%</b>
Recreational trails should not take priority over other rights of way - they should all be given equal priority.	<b>79%</b>	<b>21%</b>
Prioritise higher status paths within a community. <b>ThemeB</b>	<b>59% *</b> (53%)	<b>41%</b> (47%)

The vast majority of actions received support from respondents. The top two in the table above received 97% support. However, the issue of "prioritising higher status paths within a

community” is the one action that appears to be of most concern to 41% of respondents who responded in Theme A or 47% when combining the scores across both Themes A and B.

#### Q4. Which three would you say are a priority?

##### Theme A – Top Three Priority Table

The table below shows how respondents prioritised the 15 actions listed. Scoring can be done in a number of ways around prioritisation with weighting applied and an average score calculated. Currently the table sets out the basic count given by each respondent when asked to set out their top three priorities. The figures in green and an asterisk depict the top three.

Action	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
<b>Provide and improve appropriate way marking and signage on public rights of way, access land and public green space. *ThemeB</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22 *</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Effectively manage, monitor and maintain opened paths in a satisfactory condition. *ThemeB</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14 *</b>
Work in partnership with appropriate organisations and communities.	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>
Ensure the long term success of the National and Recreational trails in Powys.	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Take all reasonable steps to improve access for all. *ThemeB	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>To continually open and have a well-signed public rights of way network. *ThemeB</b>	<b>36 *</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>
Work with volunteers to support the surveying and maintenance of National and Recreational trails.	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>
Participate in collaborative partnership working with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial aims.	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
Improve and increase access onto and across access land.	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>
Seek funding to support the review of non-statutory management plans for common land, to ensure that they remain up to date and relevant in terms of delivering public access opportunities.	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Provide safe and appropriate outdoor facilities.	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

Utilise new technology such as social media, apps, websites and interactive interpretation to promote the network.	3	0	12
Improve path furniture to make National and Recreational trails accessible for all.	5	3	2
Recreational trails should not take priority over other rights of way - they should all be given equal priority.	0	1	0
Prioritise higher status paths within a community. <b>*ThemeB</b>	4	0	2

**Q5. For any that your feel shouldn't be in the plan can you please tell us why and share your reasons so we can consider them further.**

51 respondents choose to answer this question.

[A PDF showing the full responses and reasons given is appended at the end of this report.](#)

#### **Actions that attracted specific comments.**

- **Prioritise higher status paths**

The key action which is not clear cut is the issue of high status paths. This action has been raised previously and discussed in the stakeholder group which consists of user groups like the Ramblers and British Horse Society, with staff in the service and at the Local Area Forum. There are advantages and disadvantages with the approach. In Theme A 59% of respondents were in favour of this action and supported it but 41% did not. However overall when considering the views given in Theme B the average mean percentage is 53% in favour and 47% against. *Note: This action was also listed in Theme B with 47% in support and 53% not in favour. When combining the views of respondents to both Theme A and Theme B the mean average is 53% respondents in support of taking this approach and 47% opposed to this being our proposed action.*

- **Effectively manager, monitor and maintain opened paths in a satisfactory condition.**

A handful of respondents had expressed concerns about the council trying to do too much and had commented that in their view the council should focus resources of sustaining open paths first and foremost before opening new footpaths. Another respondent felt there was too much emphasis placed on walkers and little on motorised activities. Another said: *"I think emphasis should be placed on existing and not on new. Powys has so many already - put money into keeping those open and updated otherwise you will be spread too thinly and do a poor job on it all."*

- **To continually open and have a well-signed public rights of way network.**

As above some respondents who were less in favour of this approach had expressed concerns about funding and being able to deliver on this action. One respondent had stated: *“Trying to bring every single public right of way signposted and accessible cannot be feasible when some maintained paths are hardly used.”*

- **Utilise new technology such as social media, apps, websites and interactive interpretation to promote the network.**

One person felt this wasn't something they could support. They commented: *“There have been many attempts over the years to provide interpretative panels and nobody uses them.”* He added *“Don't waste money on social media - walking groups such as the local Ramblers will do it much better. Think about better tourist promotion.”*

## **Q6. Are there any missing actions under Theme A that you'd like to see included within the plan?**

### **Missing Actions**

65 respondents had given their views. The majority were more comments rather than new actions and some were relating to actions in Themes B, C and D e.g. enforcement.

A selection is listed here:

- I. Make provision for car parking at start, along and at end of trails or provide public transport (bus) so users can take linear routes as well as circular.
- II. Conserve landscapes and landscapes views as they are the major, taken for granted attraction for recreational users. Circular routes.
- III. Plans for motorised access
- IV. Staffing and retaining staff/protecting jobs in this portfolio
- V. Consult communities to identify currently inaccessible PRow with a view to opening these
- VI. Access for horse riding prioritised
- VII. Mountain bike trails/park for the youth.
- VIII. Schools in the local community... use them to walk routes & tell us what needs altering
- IX. Actions to secure access to water

A PDF showing responses around missing actions is appended at the end of this report.

## Theme B: Management and Enforcement of the network

**Q7. Theme B looks at the management & enforcement of the network. Tick all those that you support and those that you don't.**

*(Actions marked with the wording "ThemeA" were also listed in Theme A. The results per theme are listed in the tables with the combined average percentages given below in brackets) Those in green with an asterisk depict the three most supported actions, those in red the least supported.*

Action	Supported	Not Supported
Take all reasonable steps to improve access for all. <b>ThemeA</b>	<b>95% *</b> (95%)	<b>5%</b> (5%)
Be effective and efficient in the recruitment, retention and management of the volunteer workforce.	<b>92%</b>	<b>8%</b>
Identify and provide opportunities to increase the responsibilities and scope of the work that volunteers can carry out.	<b>87%</b>	<b>13%</b>
To continually open and have a well-signed public rights of way network. <b>*ThemeA</b>	<b>95% *</b> (95%)	<b>5%</b> (5%)
Take enforcement action when and where necessary (in accordance with our policy and the Higher Tier Approach).	<b>92%</b>	<b>8%</b>
Develop and implement the Higher Tier Approach.	<b>65%</b>	<b>35%</b>
Prioritise higher status paths within a community. <b>*ThemeA</b>	<b>47%</b> (53%)	<b>53%</b> (47%)
Effectively manage, monitor and maintain opened paths in a satisfactory condition. <b>*ThemeA</b>	<b>97% *</b> (96%)	<b>3%</b> (4%)
Provide and improve appropriate way marking and signage on public rights of way, access land and public green space. <b>*ThemeA</b>	<b>97% *</b> (97%)	<b>3%</b> (3%)
Work with external organisations to deliver improved signage and way marking.	<b>94%</b>	<b>6%</b>
Any changes to the subsidy payments for landholders should be a consideration in how the Council priorities its resources in the future. <i>(By this we mean that payments to farmers/landholders are like to change post Brexit).</i>	<b>77%</b>	<b>23%</b>

The majority of the actions were again largely supported by respondents with the exception of the action around "prioritise higher status paths" which had less support with 47% of respondents stating they were in favour of this whilst 53% were not. Overall across the two themes where this action was duplicated, the overall figures are close with 53% in support and 47% not.



The other action with less support than the rest was the “develop and implement the Higher Tier Approach.” Followed by the action around subsidy payments however this still had three quarters of respondents saying they did support this action.

### Q8. Which three would you say are a priority?

#### Theme B – Top Three Priority Table

The table below shows how respondents prioritised the 11 actions listed.

Action	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Take all reasonable steps to improve access for all. <b>*ThemeA</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
Be effective and efficient in the recruitment, retention and management of the volunteer workforce.	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
Identify and provide opportunities to increase the responsibilities and scope of the work that volunteers can carry out.	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>To continually open and have a well-signed public rights of way network. *ThemeA</b>	<b>24 *</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Take enforcement action when and where necessary (in accordance with our policy and the Higher Tier Approach).</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17 *</b>
Develop and implement the Higher Tier Approach.	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Prioritise higher status paths within a community. <b>*ThemeA</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Effectively manage, monitor and maintain opened paths in a satisfactory condition. *ThemeA</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17 *</b>	<b>15</b>
Provide and improve appropriate way marking and signage on public rights of way, access land and public green space. <b>*ThemeA</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>
Work with external organisations to deliver improved signage and way marking.	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
Any changes to the subsidy payments for landholders should be a consideration in how the Council priorities its resources in the future. <i>(By this we mean that payments to farmers/landholders are like to change post Brexit).</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

When looking at this table the three top priorities when looking purely at the numbers are in order of preference “to continually open and have a well-signed public rights of way network”; “to effectively manage, monitor and maintain opened paths in a satisfactory

condition” and “to take enforcement action when and where necessary (in accordance with our policy and the Higher Tier approach).

Interestingly, when comparing Themes A and B, two actions stand out as being ones that respondents feel should be a priority. They are:

- To continually open and have a well-signed public rights of way network.
- Effectively manage, monitor and maintain opened paths in a satisfactory condition.

What’s even more interesting is that although the “manage, monitor and maintain” action refers to the Higher Tier approach in brackets, the action which specifies the “development and implementation of the Higher Tier approach” received less support by respondents than nearly all other actions bar the action to “prioritise higher status paths”.

**Q9. For any that you feel shouldn’t be in the plan can you please tell us why and share your reasons so we can consider them further.**

33 respondents choose to answer this question.

[A PDF showing the full responses and reasons given is appended at the end of this report.](#)

**Actions that attracted specific comments.**

- **Prioritise higher status paths**

The key reason people were opposed to the higher status path action was around a view that all paths should be a priority, that each community would have a different view of which type of paths are most important and this could be problematic and that it would be detrimental to other footpaths used by local people.

- **Develop and implement the Higher Tier Approach.**

For the higher tier approach there was a clear view given by a handful of respondents that the policy prevents other issues being resolved because these are put to the bottom of the pile. One respondent wrote: *“This policy entirely ignores reports received about obstructions and problems on the network leading to problems reported over 20 years ago still not being resolved. In particular obstructions and lack of signing.”*

- **Any changes to the subsidy payments for landholders should be a consideration in how the Council priorities its resources in the future.**

There were concerns that this would be reduced significantly following Brexit but there were also some comments and suggestions made that subsidises should be made with a view to landholders ensuring that footpaths were not obstructed and kept open.

A few other comments were also made in this section around the council being realistic and managing our budgets so that we managed to deliver on some if not all of the actions. A few respondents commented that they would be supportive of the council sustaining current paths not opening new ones. Other views were made about us becoming over reliant on volunteers and enforcement being a last resort only where we had a strong case and would be likely to win in court.

**Q10. Are there any missing actions under Theme A that you'd like to see included within the plan?**

**Missing Actions**

37 respondents had given their views. A number were comments rather than new actions.

The following appeared to be new actions:

- I. PROWs threatened by development should have a higher status
- II. Biodiversity and access to water
- III. Car parking on trails or bus services to and from trails to centres / car parking.
- IV. Celebrate the rights of way with sculpture, performance and other cultural activities to encourage more people to use them
- V. Argue at a national level for increased funding for the network in Powys as a provider of employment and argue that it should be seen in rural areas as part of industrial strategy.
- VI. Better cooperation with local communities
- VII. Better relations with farmers

[A PDF showing responses to Q10 on missing actions.](#)

## Theme C: The Definitive Map and Statement

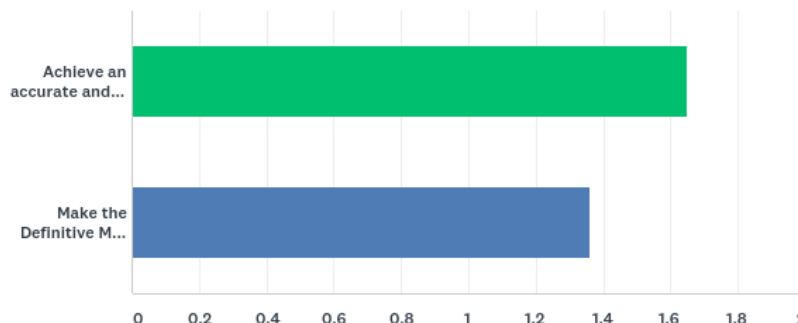
**Q11. The plan lists 2 actions. Please tick those that you support and those that you don't. Both actions were supported by 95% of respondents. The actions and response from respondents was as follows:**

Action	Supported	Not Supported
Achieve an accurate and up to date Definitive Map and Statement.	<b>95%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Make the Definitive Map and Statement widely available on the website and other appropriate formats.	<b>95%</b>	<b>5%</b>

Both actions were nearly fully supported by those respondent to Theme C.

**Q12. How would you prioritise these?**

Q12 How would you prioritise these?



As can be seen in chart above 65% of respondents felt the first action to achieve an accurate map should be the first priority followed by then making it available on the website.

**Q13. For any that your feel shouldn't be in the plan can you please tell us why and share your reasons so we can consider them further.**

Only sixteen respondents gave a view. One person said *"The present maps should be considered sufficient until council funding issues are more relaxed."* Another said they used OS maps and didn't require this. A few more comments were made. One was around access for everyone not being feasible. Said respondent stated *"Noble but impossible to achieve and not necessarily useful in some parts of the county."*

A PDF showing the response to Q13 on priorities on actions not supported is appended to the report.

**Q14. Are there any missing actions under this section that you'd like to see included within the plan?**

Although 23 respondents answered this question the majority had written “n/a” or “No”.

There were only four specific comments around missing actions for this theme. They are as follows:

- I. Action Statements that (i) commit to reducing the backlog of DMMOs and PPOs and (ii) set out the priorities for dealing with applications for these orders statements about working with others to (i) find solutions to connectivity issues arising from cul de sacs and (ii) recording lost ways where there is evidence to demonstrate their inclusion as a right of way. (2 comments)
- II. Use QR codes and apps for ease of location and trails
- III. Community Councils be encouraged to have an online definitive map of their area which they publicise and encourage local people to use.

## Theme D: Promotion and Publicity of the network

**Q15. Theme D lists 4 key actions. Please tick whether you agree or disagree with each action. Respondents gave the following view.**

Action	Supported	Not Supported
Review publications to ensure they are accurate and up to date and to distribute effectively.	<b>90%</b>	<b>10%</b>
Increase the range and quality of public information in a variety of formats.	<b>85%</b>	<b>15%</b>
Make digital information on public rights of way and open spaces available on the website.	<b>94%</b>	<b>6%</b>
All information produced by Countryside Services will aim to be available, appropriate, accurate and accessible.	<b>97%</b>	<b>3%</b>

As shown in the table above all four actions received support. The action gaining the most support was the one around accurate and accessible information whilst the least supported action was around increasing the range of formats that would be provided for the public although 85% of respondents were supportive of this action.

### **Q16. Please rank these in order of importance**

As there were only four options respondents were asked to rank these four in order of preference. The following table shows how respondents ranked their first choice.

Ranking	Action
1	Review publications to ensure they are accurate and up to date and to distribute effectively.
2	Make digital information on public rights of way and open spaces available on the website.
3	All information produced by Countryside Services will aim to be available, appropriate, accurate and accessible.
4	Increase the range and quality of public information in a variety of formats.

When weighting all four choices and calculating the overall figures the chart was the same.

**Q17. For any that your feel shouldn't be in the plan can you please tell us why and share your reasons so we can consider them further.**

18 respondents gave a view but as per the previous theme a number had just stated “not applicable” with only a handful giving a reason.

Primarily all of these were around the cost implications of achieving the actions in particular the production of several different formats. One person felt that having all publications in digital format would allow savings to be made and that we should sustain all libraries so as to allow people to access information this way if they needed to.

Another stated *“Accuracy and availability are key. Fancy booklets are not necessary.”*

A PDF showing the responses is appended to this report.

**Q18. Are there any missing actions under this section that you'd like to see included within the plan?**

26 individual comments were received around missing actions although again the majority had not offered a missing action. Those that did were around signage and bilingual signage being important. One person said *“Use new technology for improved tracking and footfall”* whilst another stated *“I believe that the town and community councils provide a valuable network across the county that could aid you in the publicity and possibly need a distinct action.”*

A PDF showing all comments is appended to this report.

**Q19. If there is anything else, you would like to say about the themes in the draft plan please use this space to do so.**

23 individuals used the space to comment although a few had not actually done so. The word cloud below takes all the responses and pulls out the key words that were used by the 23 respondents who commented. This gives a flavour of the points made.

Q19 If there is anything else you would like to say about the themes in the draft plan please use this space to do so.

paths increasing need action made must using people  
will many access appears plan one better

There were only a couple of themes emerging from the 18 comments given. These were around the actions listed and the plan itself. A couple of respondents felt that the actions were quite vague and needed to be clearer with dates and details. A couple of respondents felt the plan was too big, ordered in the wrong way with one person stating it would've been better to have two versions – one in English and one in Welsh.

A couple of examples of the comments made are listed here:

- *“Careful consideration should be given to how surface maintenance/improvement is done. The attraction for mountain bikers is to ride routes that have a degree of technical interest e.g. rock steps, ruts, water crossings etc. However, drainage of surface water is to be considered desirable. So, as an example, recent work done on the Golf Links byway near Rhayader, is not seen as beneficial by mountain bikers, but rather reduces the technical interest by eradicating the rock steps.”*
- *“It must be stressed how many benefits walking gives; increased health and tourism, decreased pollution (for all town/village footpaths). Users need to be educated (e.g. in schools) on responsible use, landowners need to see the benefits of a lived-in countryside.”*
- *“Equestrian tourism contributes significantly to the local economy but there are no statistics to support the value of equestrians unlike walkers and cyclists. I am encouraged by the plan to improve access for all and obtain benefit for most users with the available funds by prioritising higher status paths.”*

A PDF showing all the comments is appended to this report.



### Section 3 – The Needs of Network Users

**Q20. This section focuses on the needs of network users - current and future - and lists actions that would improve access for all users e.g. disabled residents, horse riders, families with small children etc. Please read the statements of action and then tick those that you agree with and those you don't.**

Action	Supported	Not Supported
Implement 'least restrictive' access practices.	<b>94%</b>	<b>6%</b>
Work with internal and external partners to improve countryside access in Powys.	<b>95%</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Give priority to higher status paths within communities.</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>51%</b>
Work with internal and external partners to improve countryside access in Powys.	<b>96%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Ensure high quality gates and installation to allow easy access for horse-riders.	<b>77%</b>	<b>23%</b>
Seek resources to manage and maintain the byway open to all traffic network.	<b>67%</b>	<b>33%</b>
Work with stakeholders to improve provision, education and enforcement with regards to legal and illegal motorised access.	<b>96%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Replace stiles with gates wherever possible.	<b>78%</b>	<b>22%</b>
Identify and improve routes that are most likely to be accessed by people with mobility and sensory difficulties.	<b>89%</b>	<b>11%</b>
Ensure all information produced by Countryside Services will aim to be available, appropriate, accurate and accessible in all required formats.	<b>94%</b>	<b>6%</b>

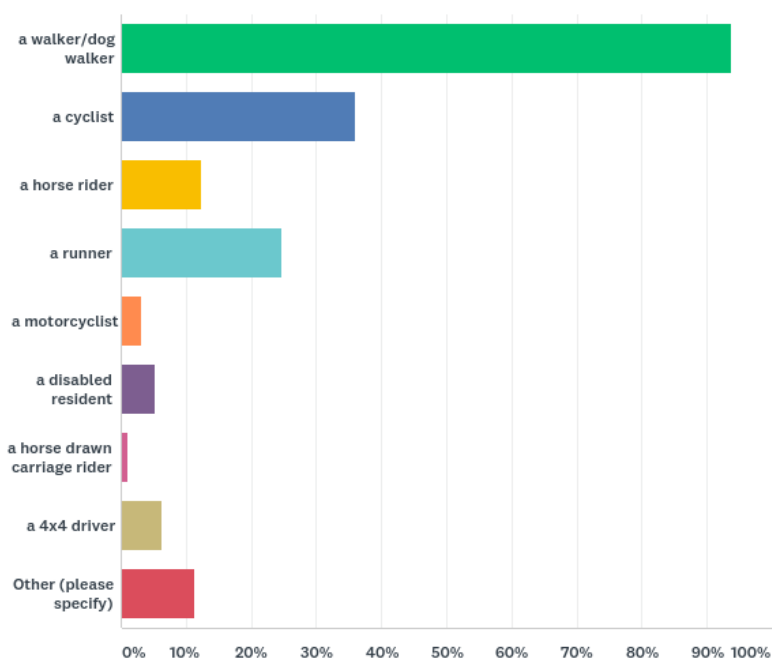
The two actions with the most support were both involving working with others to improve the network and also to consider and improve the use of motorised access on the network. Naturally there is both legal and illegal use and respondents were very supportive of this action.

The least supported action was to “give priority to higher status paths within communities” with just over half (51%) of respondents not supporting this approach. However, 49% did. This aligns again with the views given by respondents in Theme A and B - naturally it is worth noting that these will all be the same respondents - so the overall sample is in essence split on this issue. This is a key area which needs due regard prior to a final decision being made.

The remainder of the actions appear to have more support than not although the action to “seek resources to manage and maintain the byway open to all traffic network” was the second least popular one with a third of respondents stating that they didn’t support this.

**Q21. On what basis do you use the network?** 97 respondents answered this question.

Q21 On what basis do you use the network? (please tick all that apply)



The chart above shows that the vast majority of respondents to the survey classed themselves as walkers or dog walkers. (94%). Respondents were invited to tick all categories that applied to them so one person may have ticked four or five categories. Around a third classed themselves as cyclists and a tenth horse riders. One person was riding a horse drawn carriage and three were motorcyclists.

See the full table below for the number of responses per category.

<b>Basis</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
A walker/dog walker	<b>91</b>	<b>94%</b>
A cyclist	<b>35</b>	<b>36%</b>
A horse rider	<b>12</b>	<b>12%</b>
A runner	<b>24</b>	<b>25%</b>
A motorcyclist	<b>3</b>	<b>3%</b>
A disabled resident	<b>5</b>	<b>5%</b>
A horse drawn carriage rider	<b>1</b>	<b>1%</b>
A 4 x 4 driver	<b>6</b>	<b>6%</b>
Other (please specify)	<b>11</b>	<b>11%</b>

The 11 respondents who choose “other” had an array of descriptions who themselves from a rambler, a buggy walker, someone with small children, a companion to a disabled resident, a long distance walker, a canoeist, a volunteer, a mountain biker and someone who did adventure type sports. One person had stated they were someone who was “fed up with the council wasting money”.

## Section 7 – Partnerships

**Q22. Under Section 7 the focus is on partnerships and there are nine actions listed. Please tell us if you agree or disagree with each one.**

Action	Supported	Not Supported
Seek planning gain at every available opportunity.	<b>86%</b>	<b>14%</b>
Develop and promote how public access contributes to health and well-being through the Council, Powys Teaching Health Board and Public Health Wales.	<b>88%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Liaise with Town and Community Councils before implementing works as part of a Project Area Approach.	<b>91%</b>	<b>9%</b>
Work in partnership with Town and Community Councils or constituted cluster groups to repair, maintain and improve public access.	<b>95%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Work with internal and external partners to improve countryside access in Powys.	<b>95%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Develop efficient working practices that are mutually beneficial to the Council and the National Park Authority.	<b>95%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Participate in collaborative partnership working with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial aims.	<b>92%</b>	<b>8%</b>
Work in partnership with neighbouring local authorities. Consider and participate in cross-border initiatives, where benefits exceed investment.	<b>96%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Take the opportunity to learn from the best practice of other local authorities.	<b>96%</b>	<b>4%</b>

The feedback from respondents in this section showed support for all actions overall.

Two received support of 96%. There were:

- Take the opportunity to learn from the best practice of other local authorities
- Work in partnership with neighbouring local authorities. Consider and participate in cross-border initiatives, where benefits exceed investment.

These two actions which involve collaboration and discussion with other local authorities, in essence, could be said to replicate the findings from Section 3 whereby the top two supported actions were also around partnership working to help address the needs of all users of the network.

This perhaps suggests that there is growing recognition from respondents that Powys is facing difficult budgetary pressures and that the whole ethos around better partnership working is something they support and feel is a sensible way to sustain the network going forward. A number of comments throughout the survey highlight that people are aware of the

financial situation facing the council and are mindful and giving this consideration in their responses.

### Q23. Final comments.

The word cloud below takes all the responses and pulls out the key words that were used by the 46 respondents who commented. This gives a flavour of the points made. A PDF listing all comments is appended to this report.

Q23 Finally if you have any other comments about the Rights of Way Improvement Plan and how the council plans to maintain the network over the next ten years please use this space to share them. Thank you for responding.

improvement walking Please network areas good plan  
council need time action use think footpaths make

A small selection of comments are as follows:

*“It seems to me that since you continually mention lack of funding that using a volunteer force effectively and efficiently is a priority. My husband and I signed up in May 2018 and have yet to be used at all.”*

*“I have read the document and can find no clear plan to achieve improvements. The action statements are a series of good intentions and guiding principles with no specific goals or accountability. It is significant that the 2007-17 plan failed to deliver any overall improvement to Powys ROWs and further deterioration occurred. It follows from this that a more effective approach is needed. I feel the proposed plan should be rejected and sent back to those responsible with an instruction to produce a proper plan of action, which can be monitored by elected representatives.”*

*“The less popular areas of the network are dying.”*

*“Well produced with lovely photos. Interested in evaluation of ROWIP 2007 - 17 but should have liked numbered pages. Thought sources of funding would be more explained?”*

*“In a time of austerity where libraries are being closed roads not being repaired use your funds wisely, improve access do not waste it on producing a map.”*

*“Many of the Statements of Actions are aims and methods rather than positive proposals. More detailed and quantifiable actions are needed: what exactly is going to be done, when and by whom. That would give confidence in the plan and allow progress to be monitored.”*

A PDF listing all the comments is appended to this report and will be given due regard and contribute to the final version of the plan.

## Responses from other channels

Alongside the survey responses, a number of organisations/charities and a few residents had contacted the council to comment via email or letter. A number of the responses from organisations were very detailed and will be given due regard in terms of finalising the plan. This section provides a basic summary of the key points.

There were also comments posted on the council's Corporate social media channels. For the most part these comments reflected some of the views already expressed by respondents to the survey. The key comments or concerns from organisations with an interest in the land, tourism and the network were as follows:

### **Powys Ramblers**

Powys Ramblers provided a detailed response which set out a number of points for the council to consider alongside some suggestions on missing actions.

Overall there was support for the majority of the statement of actions within the draft plan with the exception of the higher tier approach. However, a view was given that all needed to be more detailed and thus refined for the final plan.

The organisation was in support of and felt the following were priorities:

- Provide and improve appropriate way marking and signage on public rights of way, access land and public green space
- To continually open and have a well signed public rights of way network
- Effectively manage, monitor and maintain opened paths in a satisfactory condition

There was also a view that the council should:

- Undertake a programme to install fingerposts at junctions between rights of way and metalled roads where there currently isn't one or its needs replacement – this is, of course, a statutory duty
- Proactively deal with obstructions on paths identified as important by local communities
- Clarify and be more specific around the actions – some are quite vague
- Allow local communities to determine priorities in their area rather than introduce than prioritising higher status paths.

## **Elan Valley Trust**

The Trust was particularly concerned about Monks Trod and felt that improvements to allow access to motorised vehicles did not fit with their aspirations for the peaceful enjoyment of the countryside.

They were also keen that the council didn't just focus on enforcement around land ownership and obstructions, but that there was a stronger emphasis on enforcement for those who were using the network in an irresponsible manner.

## **National Farmers Union**

The NFU expressed concerns over the users of the network too – in particular with regard to some irresponsible dog owners.

They wanted the council to ensure there was:

- Clear signage on the network
- A complaints procedure for inappropriate use of the network
- No increased liabilities on farmers' re- access
- Improved publicity via a digital type hub

## **The Open Spaces Society**

The key areas that the society raised were as follows:

- Signposting was key to ensure an accessible and open network
- Volunteers were an important resource and should be well utilised
- The higher tier approach was felt to ignore long standing reports or complaints about paths that were not deemed to be higher tier.
- Barbed wire fences were perceived to be a key health and safety issue that we should tackle.
- Enforcement was important to reduce obstructions on the network.

## **Natural Resources Wales**

The organisation suggested integrating and cross referencing the actions listed in the final plan with both the Area Statement and the Green Infrastructure Assessments.

They were complimentary about the process undertaken via the surveys conducted to gather evidence and insights for the plan prior to drafting it and then for the first draft. They felt this has been comprehensive. They also welcomed the fact that the plan included reference to managed land.

They also felt that the following points were important:

- Budgets should be linked to actions
- Utilising the Local Access Forum was key

## Social Media

Alongside press releases being issued during the 12-week consultation period, details were posted on the council's Facebook and Twitter account on two or three occasions during the timeframe. All posts received comments, some were liked and all were shared. The comments made related to a number of issues. Some were from residents stating that they felt the council should be focused on other matters like repairing potholes and our roads and not the countryside.

Another respondent queried how much was being spent on running the consultation exercise whilst another was unhappy about their personal predicament whereby they felt their homes were now undervalued due to being on a right of way. The purpose of the post was to signpost people to the draft plan and the survey and the fact that the post was shared hopefully led to some of the responses to the final survey.

Post Details
✕

**Powys County Council**

Published by Sue Glenn [?] · 12 December 2018 · 🌐

People who enjoy the county's rights of way network or help to maintain it are being invited to comment via a survey on a new draft ten year Rights of Way Improvement Plan - written following extensive engagement and consultation last year. [www.powys.gov.uk/haveyoursay](http://www.powys.gov.uk/haveyoursay)

Powys County Council

Government organisation

Send Message

🌱 **Get more likes, comments and shares**

Boost this post for £23 to reach up to 35,000 people.

**Performance for your post**

**6,994** People Reached

**66** Reactions, comments & shares 📊

19	9	10
👍 Like	On post	On shares
1	0	1
😲 Wow	On post	On shares
28	25	3
Comments	On Post	On Shares
18	18	0
Shares	On Post	On Shares

**520** Post Clicks

27	58	435
Photo views	Link clicks	Other Clicks 📊

**NEGATIVE FEEDBACK**

1	0
Hide Post	Hide All Posts
0	0
Report as Spam	Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Above: The post on Facebook on 12 December 2018.

## Emails

The consultation email address was used by two respondents both of whom were supportive of the plan and had complimented the council on its work to protect the network. A handful of organisation also copied in their views to the address but these were primarily addressed to Countryside Services and have been considered within this report.



## **A note about market research and consultations conducted by Powys County Council.**

When conducting consultation exercise Powys County Council works to the National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales.

<http://www.participationcymru.org.uk/national-principles>

### Market Research versus Public Consultations – what’s the difference?

When conducting market research, the companies involved use a margin of error and confidence level to ensure that their results are robust and representative of the population they are seeking views from. (i.e. the population of interest).

A public consultation however isn’t market research as people choose to respond having normally seen publicity around the topic/survey. They are not contacted directly using a sampling methodology. People self-select so sometimes when conducting a consultation, the organisation seeking views will most likely hear ONLY from people who are either strongly in favour/strongly object to a proposal/service change or from those who may have a specific interest in the topic being consulted upon.

Although it’s open to all to respond, the silent majority may not give a view either way because either the topic doesn’t interest them or they have no strong feelings either way and thus don’t wish or have time to take part.

When we analyse any consultation results we do consider how robust they are in terms of the population of interest and if we have heard from the key stakeholders involved.

For this consultation overall, which has been staggered over a period of just over a year with views sought prior to writing a new ROWIP and again at its current draft stage, it is our opinion that we have clearly heard the views of both individual residents and visitors to Powys alongside views of land owners, some of our town and community councils, access groups and our own Local Access Forum plus the organisations who also have a clear stake in the future of the network and the countryside in Powys.

### **Conclusion:**

The results from this survey will help the service consider fully what actions should be included in the final iteration of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the next ten years based on the feedback given.

Discussions with the Local Access Forum and responses from other organisations with a clear stake in ensuring the rights of way network is well-maintained, protected and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike, will also be fully considered.

All views will be given due regard and taken into account prior to a final Rights of Way Improvement Plan being approved and published. Once this has been agreed the next step is the production of a delivery plan with clear objectives and timescales set out for the next three years. This will then be reviewed on a yearly basis.



**A2 Scrutiny Working Group  
Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet – Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

The Group met on 23 May 2018 to consider the draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

The Group acknowledge the extensive work undertaken so far and offer the following comments and suggestions:

- The Group support the approach taken regarding priorities
- Welcome discussions with communities regarding their own areas
- Consider a standard specification for signage
- Continue to liaise closely with regeneration and tourism services
- Develop a relationship with Building Control to prevent issues arising during development
- A more succinct executive summary would be beneficial

Membership of the A2 Scrutiny Group  
County Councillors G Williams (Lead Member), K Curry, S Davies, E Durrant, G Jones and J Pugh

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# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



This **Impact Assessment (IA)** toolkit incorporating Welsh Language, Equalities, Well-being of Future Generations Act, Sustainable Development Principles, Communication and Engagement, Safeguarding, Corporate Parenting, Community Cohesion and Risk Management supporting effective decision making and ensuring compliance with respective legislation.

**Please read the accompanying guidance before completing the form.**

**Draft versions of the assessment should be watermarked as "Draft" and retained for completeness, however only the final version will be publically available. Draft versions may be provided to regulators if appropriate. In line with Council policy IAs should be retained for 6 years.**

<b>Service Area</b>	Countryside Services	<b>Head of Service</b>	Stuart Mackintosh	<b>Strategic Director</b>	Ian Budd	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Cllr. Aled Davies
<b>Proposal</b>	To identify and assess the impact of reviewing the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.						
<b>Outline Summary</b>							
The Rights of Way Improvement Plan is a statutory decennial document that identifies, prioritises, and plans for improvements to local public rights of way but will also include open access land and green spaces. It was first published in 2007, meaning that it is now due to be reviewed. The review is to incorporate how the Service is to improve service provision, and to take more of an account of community demand where it has been identified and to facilitate this by providing professional advice and a more flexible volunteer workforce.							

Page 187  
Version Control (services should consider the impact assessment early in the development process and continually evaluate)

Version	Author	Job Title	Date
Version 1	Mark Stafford-Tolley	Countryside Access Officer	14.07.2017
Version 2	Mark Stafford-Tolley	Countryside Access Officer	18.08.2017
Version 3	Mark Stafford-Tolley	Senior Countryside Access Officer	19.02.2018
Version 4	Mark Stafford-Tolley	Senior Countryside Access Officer	15.05.2018
Version 5	Mark Stafford-Tolley	Senior Countryside Access Officer	06.02.2019

### 2. Impact on Other Service Areas

**Does Proposal have potential to impact on another service area? (Including implication for Health and Safety and corporate parenting)**

**PLEASE ENSURE YOU INFORM / ENGAGE ANY AFFECTED SERVICE AREAS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY**

Highways, Transport and Recycling  
Regeneration  
Active Travel Planners  
Planning and Development Control  
Health and Safety  
Legal Services

DRAFT

† Page 188 How does your proposal impact on the council's strategic vision?

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Council Priority	How does the proposal impact on this priority?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Residents and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working more with interested community groups (community councils, walking groups), especially those with their own volunteers and funding could potentially either increase service delivery with existing resources or maintain delivery with a decrease in resources. It is currently not known how much interest there is, but there is a lot of untapped potential. Working with the Vale of Montgomery Rural Cluster group, for which there is already evidenced benefit and positive outcomes.</li> <li>Utilising volunteers more effectively using Volunteer Team Leaders, and appropriate training so a wider range of work can be undertaken without the need for direct supervision.</li> <li>Working more with externally funded projects to open and maintain public rights of way.</li> </ul>	Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proactively work with community groups to attain and sustain interest.</li> <li>Do not provide grants for the installation of gates or stiles. Minimum statutory contribution of 25% of the maintenance and repair of structures will be met by the provision of structures that can be collected from a Council yard by the landholder responsible for the structure.</li> <li>A review to further reduce financial burden rather than provide 100% grants for gates is a Statement of Action</li> <li>Ensure that Full Cost Recovery principles are adhered to for non-statutory services.</li> <li>Develop the Vale of Montgomery Rural Cluster Group project and evaluate its potential for future work, allowing community volunteers to manage the public rights of way network to their own needs reducing the need for Council resources to negotiate and enforce the opening and maintenance of the public rights of way network.</li> </ul>	Choose an item.

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



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Council Priority	How does the proposal impact on this priority?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Health and Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A large number and proportion of Countryside Services' volunteers are retired. Creating a diverse volunteer workforce and increasing the number of volunteers and keeping them active leads to prolonged well-being.</li> <li>• Public rights of way and Access land is an asset for the use of walking, cycling and horse riding amongst others and will facilitate tourism, healthy lifestyles and mental well-being.</li> <li>• Outdoor recreation makes a significant contribution to the physical and mental health of the population. It has been estimated that the cost of physical inactivity to Wales is around £650 million per year (<i>Climbing Higher: Creating an Active Wales, Welsh Government 2009</i>).</li> <li>• As well as the physical and mental benefits, the social benefits of participating on outdoor recreation, especially in rural isolated communities is clearly evidenced.</li> <li>• Within the Getting Wales Moving document March 2017 (Public Health Wales), it is an aspiration for all communities to have access to quality facilities and spaces for people to come together and to be active.</li> </ul>	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Service will work closely with the Powys Teaching Health Board and attend and contribute to the Healthy Weights Steering Group.</li> <li>• The Community Council and or various user group communities will be engaged prior to developing a "Priority Project Approach" for a three year work programme.</li> <li>• Liaise with Active Travel planners to develop and utilise public rights of way to provide for safe and appropriate active travel networks.</li> <li>• The existence of active community volunteers and a proactive community council will be a variable to the prioritisation of resources to provide and or improve public access.</li> </ul>	Very Good

<p>The Economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public rights of way and access land is a valuable asset for walking, cycling and horse riding, and what it brings to the rural economy.</li> <li>• An important variable in prioritising resources of the Service is where communities show an interest to develop public access whether it is for economic or well-being benefits.</li> <li>• Walking alone as an activity generated £562 million of additional demand to the Welsh economy and around 11,980 person-years of employment (<i>Economic Impact of Walking and hill walking in Wales – Cardiff Business School 2011</i>).</li> <li>• Proximity to high quality green space, like parks, increase property values by 2.6%-11.2%. Additionally every £1 of public spend on green space projects levers in £4.20 of private investment boosting regeneration. (<i>Forest Research (2012) Economic Benefits of greenspace A critical assessment of evidence of net economic benefits</i>).</li> <li>• In total, £5.6bn was spent during visits to the outdoors for recreation by people living in Wales. (<i>NRW Welsh Outdoor recreation Survey 2014/15 Keys Facts</i>).</li> <li>• Peter Midmore’s 2000 report into the ‘Economic Value of Walking in Wales’ estimates the income from walking in rural Wales at £55 million and concludes that this supports 3,000 jobs.</li> </ul>	<p>Good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain statutory minimum provision as Cabinet have stated for public rights of way and work with volunteers to enable this.</li> <li>• Develop a 3 year rolling programme for the Priority Project Approach to develop a network that is fit for the needs of the community, but also to support tourism and diversity in the local economy.</li> <li>• Provide an electronic version of the Definitive Map on the Council’s website to better promote and provide freely available information on public access, specifically public rights of way.</li> <li>• The lack of resources means that any positive benefit that public access can bring to the local economy is mitigated.</li> </ul>	<p>Poor</p>
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<p>Learning and Skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public rights of way are an important asset to enable learners to travel to school safely, which could also be active travel routes but not exclusively so. This might improve the learner’s health and mental well-being as well as possibly increase educational attainment.</li> <li>• Access to the countryside could be utilised as part of the educational curriculum as the Donaldson review suggested (by increasing physical activity during the school day) and reinforced by the “Getting Wales Moving” document (Public Health Wales) in Chapter 6.5.</li> <li>• The benefits to the environment of encouraging responsible access to the outdoors are that people, especially those with no day to day contact with nature, learn to appreciate the natural environment and the need to protect it. The majority of Wales’ population live in urban areas, and it is important that through outdoor recreation they have opportunities to learn about and experience our cultural and natural heritage; and appreciate and understand the nature of farming, forestry, fishing and other rural land and water uses. <i>Improving opportunities to access the outdoors for responsible recreation, Welsh Government Green paper, July 2015.</i></li> <li>• Provide learning and new skills for volunteers and Volunteer Team Leaders.</li> </ul>	<p>Good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with Active Travel planners to develop and utilise public rights of way to provide for safe and appropriate active travel networks.</li> </ul>	<p>Good</p>
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**Cyngor Sir Powys County Council**  
**Impact Assessment (IA)**

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



Council Priority	How does the proposal impact on this priority?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<b>Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements</b>				
Already referenced.				

DRAFT

4. How does your proposal impact on the Welsh Assembly's well-being goals?

DRAFT

<b>Well-being Goal</b>	<b>How does proposal contribute to this goal?</b>	<b>IMPACT</b> Please select from drop down box below	<b>What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?</b>	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
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DRAFT

**A prosperous Wales:**

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

- Public rights of way are public highways, and can be utilised as part of the transportational network as well as the recreational network. An example of this is to include public rights of way as part of the Active Travel network. Active travel can assist with increasing physical activity and reducing car journeys, and therefore cost of fuel and Co2 emissions and possibly therefore increase opportunities to attain employment without the need for a vehicle.
- Walking alone as an activity generated £562 million of additional demand in the Welsh economy and around 11,980 person-years of employment (*Economic Impact of Walking and hill walking in Wales – Cardiff Business School 2011*). Powys is approximately one-quarter of the landmass of Wales, and being a largely rural authority the economic leverage from walking, as well as cycling and horse riding is very important.
- Giving the community the facility and provide professional advice to develop public access for their own advantage to maximise the socio-economic benefits of walking, cycling and horse riding as well as any other lawful public access.

Very Good

- Maintain statutory minimum provision as Cabinet have stated for public rights of way and work with volunteers to enable this.
- Develop a 3 year rolling programme for the Priority Project Approach to develop a network that is fit for the needs of the community, but also to support tourism and diversity in the local economy.
- Provide an electronic version of the Definitive Map on the Council's website to better promote and provide freely available information on public access, specifically public rights of way.
- It is part of the Council's statutory duty to keep open and maintained public rights of way and to keep the Definitive Map under continuous review. The Council has taken account of the findings from the ROWIP survey to determine how resources are to be prioritised and to maximise the potential for using public access as an enabler for economic prosperity.
- Community groups and external projects looking to develop public access will be one of the criteria for determining the next priority project for Area Officers.
- Working closely with Active Travel planners and utilising public rights of way in the active travel network.
- Procurement of path furniture as part of the work of the Service will be using local producers and fabricators as much as possible.
- The lack of resources means that any positive benefit that public access can bring to the local

Neutral

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
			economy is mitigated and therefore the impact would not be so great.	
<p><b>A resilient Wales:</b>                      A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giving the community the facility and provide professional advice to develop public access for their own advantage to maximise the socio-economic benefits of walking, cycling and horse riding as well as any other lawful public access.</li> <li>• Work with externally funded projects, such as projects that relate to developing an integrated landscape and contributing to Area Statements with the Environment (Wales) Act 2015.</li> </ul>	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyse the effectiveness of the Vale of Montgomery Rural Cluster Group (VMRC) – Public Access project that will facilitate community volunteers to directly manage and maintain their public rights of way to meet their needs. Identify any other cluster groups, or community councils looking to do the same and provide the project’s framework.</li> <li>• Priority Project Areas will be developed on a three year rolling programme to prioritise paths to be reinstated to develop a public rights of way network in a geographic area.</li> </ul>	Good

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><b>A healthier Wales:</b>                      A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is well understood that physical exercise is good for your physical and mental well-being.</li> <li>Based on figures for 2007-08, the annual cost of mental ill health in Wales is estimated to be £7.2billion. <i>Together for Mental Health A Strategy for Mental Health and Wellbeing in Wales by the Welsh Government (October 2012).</i></li> <li>Passive or less strenuously active contact with green spaces can be psychologically and physiologically restorative, reducing blood pressure and stress levels. <i>Preference for Nature in Urbanized Societies by Van den Berg et al, cited in Benefits of Green Infrastructure by Forest Research, October 2010.</i></li> <li>It has been estimated that the cost of physical inactivity to Wales is around £650 million per year. <i>Climbing higher: creating an active Wales by the Welsh Government 2009.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The provision of public access, specifically public rights of way is a statutory duty, and it is therefore determining the best way to apply the resources that are available to maximise potential.</li> <li>Providing the definitive map on the Council's website will better promote where public rights of way are so the public can understand where they can walk, cycle etc.</li> <li>Facilitate communities to identify and develop public access as to their own demands for their residents or to develop the local economy such as promoting walking festivals, or for a horse riding centre for example. The community could either be a community council, or a community of walkers, cyclists etc.</li> </ul>	<p>Very Good</p>

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><b>A Wales of cohesive communities:</b>                      Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected Communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community groups will be able to be more involved in developing public access in their area, and this will mean that the community will have public access fit for their needs.</li> <li>Public rights of way and Access land is an asset for the use of walking, cycling and horse riding amongst others and will facilitate tourism, healthy lifestyles and mental well-being.</li> <li>Liaise with Active Travel planners to develop and utilise public rights of way to provide for safe and appropriate active travel networks.</li> </ul>	<p>Good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with and contribute to externally funded projects, such as Monty-Trax, Ride mid Wales and the Vale of Montgomery Rural Cluster Group. The Service recognises that it is important to work with communities and partners to provide better public access, which can be used for recreational as well as transportational purposes.</li> </ul>	<p>Good</p>

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<b>IMPACT</b> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<p><b>A globally responsible Wales:</b>                      A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public rights of way will contribute to active travel goals that will in turn reduce Co2 levels by reducing the need or demand for the use of the car.</li> <li>Procuring local produce where it is appropriate to do so will reduce carbon footprint and keep economic prosperity within Powys.</li> </ul>	<p>Good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide at least three yards across Powys so that landholders can pick up structures such as stiles and gates so they can install them. The provision of structures ensures structures meet BSI: 5709, or at least to the specification that the Council requires. It also ensures that the Council at least meets the 25 per cent contribution to the maintenance and repair of structures as provided for under the Highways Act 1980.</li> <li>The above will only be on the basis that any public subsidy paid to farmers includes the keeping of public rights of way free from obstruction. If this is the case, then it is expected that farmers will be requesting assistance and advice on providing suitable and adequate structures necessary to control stock on a public right of way.</li> </ul>	<p>Very Good</p>
<p><b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language:</b> A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p>				
<p><i>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ROWIP will be produced bi-lingually.</li> <li>Any destination way-marking will be produced bi-lingually.</li> <li>Any promotional material produced will be bi-lingual.</li> </ul>	<p>Good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any promotional material produced will be bi-lingual.</li> </ul>	<p>Good</p>



Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<b>IMPACT</b> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<i>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ROWIP will be produced bi-lingually.</li> <li>Any destination way-marking will be produced bi-lingually.</li> </ul>	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any promotional material produced will be bi-lingual.</li> </ul>	Good
<i>Welsh Language impact on staff</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no impact.</li> </ul>	Neutral	N/A	Neutral
<i>People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The availability of public access, and for public access to be used as a “green gym” has been legally available for many years. By prioritising resources and utilising volunteers to their maximum effectiveness, then if public rights of way are promoted and more available then this could lead to an increase in recognition for their benefit as a recreational resource.</li> </ul>	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working closer with Sports development and Public Health Wales colleagues to develop more health walks and to use the outdoor recreational assets within the responsibility of Countryside Services.</li> </ul>	Good

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below										
<b>A more equal Wales:</b> A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).														
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anecdotally, public rights of way are traditionally used more by people who are middle-aged or have retired as they have surplus time and finance. This is backed up by the survey age profile (see table below) showing that more people aged between 45 – 64 years responded to the survey but overall there is a decent spread of age groups although it's likely that younger people may not have seen the survey via the channels by which it was publicised – hence the number being just over 30.</li> </ul> <table border="1" data-bbox="577 871 1111 1066"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Under 45</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>45 – 64 years</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65+ years</td> <td>57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>184</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>105 respondents chose not to give any details of their age.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Otherwise public rights of way and public access is an asset available for all ages, it is more a question of re-balancing and promoting its use to the younger generation.</li> </ul>	Age	Number	Under 45	34	45 – 64 years	93	65+ years	57	Total	184	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is certainly scope to target a younger audience to use public access as a recreational resource. The provision and improvement of public access does not inherently it any less equal, other than perhaps that people who are time poor, or cannot travel by car are less likely to use the “green gym” as a recreational resource.</li> </ul>	Neutral
Age	Number													
Under 45	34													
45 – 64 years	93													
65+ years	57													
Total	184													

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<i>Disability</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within the adopted Least Restrictive Approach, stiles are not authorised as a structure where a new fence is required for the purposes of stock control. Stiles are inherently more difficult to use than a gate, so a stile being authorised would need to be justified.</li> <li>• Ramps of no more than 1:12 are used for promoted routes for bridges and water crossings.</li> <li>• 15% of respondents who answered this question in the survey had a specific condition. Of these, 2 said it affected their ability to carry out day to day activities a lot, 14 said it impacted on this a little and nine residents said it didn't do so at all.</li> <li>• The top two conditions that people had listed were hearing loss (13 respondents) and stamina, breathing loss and fatigue (12 respondents). A few other respondents had ticked mobility, mental health and visual impairments.</li> </ul>	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All recreational trails will be surveyed. National Trails are surveyed on an annual basis.</li> <li>• Seek representation for somebody with mobility difficulties on the Local Access Forum. It has been difficult to do this, even after engagement with Disability Powys.</li> </ul>	Good
<i>Gender reassignment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No positive or negative impact.</li> </ul>	Neutral		Neutral
<i>Marriage or civil partnership</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No positive or negative impact.</li> </ul>	Neutral		Neutral
<i>Race</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No positive or negative impact.</li> </ul>	Neutral		Neutral
<i>Religion or belief</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No positive or negative impact.</li> </ul>	Neutral		Neutral

**Cyngor Sir Powys County Council**  
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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below								
<p><i>Sex</i></p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="584 440 1133 587"> <thead> <tr> <th>Gender</th> <th>Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>110</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>178</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>111 respondents chose not to give details of their gender.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From the above chart it is clear that more men than women have responded to the survey. This does not mean necessarily that more men use the network but this could be the case. Reasons why women may not access the network as frequently as men could be down to a number of reasons including safety and confidence.</li> </ul>	Gender	Number	Male	110	Female	68	Total	178	Neutral		Neutral
Gender	Number											
Male	110											
Female	68											
Total	178											
<i>Sexual Orientation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No positive or negative impact.</li> </ul>	Neutral		Neutral								
<i>Pregnancy and Maternity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation was carried out with Mother's and Toddler's Group in Builth Wells. Most of the Mother's would use the rights of way network if they felt it was accessible and they knew the condition of the network was good and that there were potentially some shorter circular walks that they could do.</li> <li>The group also provided specific issues they would like to see addressed.</li> </ul>	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a blog called Wild Child Wanderings which lists around 5/6 local walks which are child friendly. Liaise with PtHB about doing a joint buggy friendly walk digital story in liaison with Healthy Weights Steering Group or other appropriate forum.</li> </ul>	Neutral								

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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements				

DRAFT

5. How does your proposal impact on the council's other key guiding principles?

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Sustainable Development Principle (5 ways of working)				

DRAFT

**Long Term:** Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- It has been estimated that the cost of physical inactivity to Wales is around £650 million per year. Climbing higher: creating an active Wales by the Welsh Government 2009. Public access provision is instrumental in providing this. Preventative medicine is in the long term the most viable option, and with the increasing elderly population ever increasingly important to ensure a physical and mentally active population.
- Active travel is a long term aspiration of Welsh Government to increase opportunities for walking and cycling, and public rights of way will be really important especially within or on the fringes of urban areas.
- Public rights of way and access land is a valuable asset for walking, cycling and horse riding, and what it brings to the rural economy. These forms of recreation are essentially the bread and butter of our tourism industry, and any provision to meet demand would have a positive impact.
- For example, walking alone as an activity generated £562 of additional demand in the Welsh economy and around 11,980 person-years of employment (Economic Impact of Walking and hill walking in Wales – Cardiff Business School 2011). The ability to employ and retain the young population of Powys for walking, cycling and horse riding related tourism should not be underestimated.

Good

- Prioritise resources to reinstate and maintain public rights of way and public access provision to provide an asset to prevent mental ill-health and reducing the cost of physical inactivity.
- Utilising volunteers to undertake the above, which also provides a volunteer workforce being kept mentally and physically active in the maintenance and upkeep of public access provision.

Good

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><b>Collaboration:</b> Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internally, working with key partners such as active travel planners, Legal Services, Regeneration Services (Tourism Officers), Planning Department and Public Health Wales.</li> <li>Externally, Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and neighbouring authorities.</li> <li>Additionally, working with Community Councils and groups and actively listen to their priorities to assist with the allocation of resources.</li> </ul>	<p>Good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with Community Councils and groups is a proposed positive impact, and there is an element of this already happening within the 2007-2017 ROWIP. However, engagement with Community groups was only after the area was being assigned as a priority under the "Priority Community Approach". Under the new approach, engagement with the communities will be a factor when prioritising resources and so this is regarded as an increase in collaboration.</li> </ul>	<p>Very Good</p>



Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><b>Involvement (including Communication and Engagement):</b>                      Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with Community Councils and groups and actively listen to their priorities to assist with the allocation of resources.</li> </ul>	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with Community Councils and groups is a proposed positive impact, and there is an element of this already happening within the 2007-2017 ROWIP. However, engagement with Community groups was only after the area was being assigned as a priority under the "Priority Community Approach". Under the new approach, engagement with the communities will be a factor when prioritising resources and thereby provide an increase in collaboration and communication.</li> <li>Local Access Forums are statutory advisors to the Council on open air and recreation as well as local rights of way. The LAF, although have been in existence for a number of years have not been utilised in this way. The engagement with the LAF to assist the Council in prioritising resources is going to be a positive impact.</li> </ul>	Good

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><i>Prevention: Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on figures for 2007-08, the annual cost of mental ill health in Wales is estimated to be £7.2billion. Together for Mental Health A Strategy for Mental Health and Wellbeing in Wales by the Welsh Government (October 2012).</li> <li>Passive or less strenuously active contact with green spaces can be psychologically and physiologically restorative, reducing blood pressure and stress levels. Preference for Nature in Urbanized Societies by Van den Berg et al, cited in Benefits of Green Infrastructure by Forest Research, October 2010.</li> <li>It has been estimated that the cost of physical inactivity to Wales is around £650 million per year. Climbing higher: creating an active Wales by the Welsh Government 2009.</li> <li>Recreational use of motor vehicles on byways open to all traffic is an emotive subject, and has its own management issues. As such an informal advisory group called the Powys Byways User Group exists that involves user groups</li> </ul>	<p>Good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritise resources to reinstate and maintain public rights of way and public access provision to provide an asset to prevent mental ill-health and reducing the cost of physical inactivity.</li> <li>Utilising volunteers to undertake the above, which also provides a volunteer workforce being kept mentally and physically active in the maintenance and upkeep of public access provision.</li> </ul>	<p>Good</p>

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<b>IMPACT</b> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<p><b>Integration:</b> Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Service Board 2040 short-term vision for well-being includes public rights of way, and that they are not that accessible. This is the statutory body looking to integrate services and organisations.</li> <li>The 2040 vision also aspires to utilise and harness adventure tourism, which includes walking, cycling, etc. which Powys has a huge potential for growth.</li> </ul>	Choose an item.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integration with PtHB and Public Health Wales.</li> <li>Continue to meet and liaise with the above two organisations through the Health Weights Steering Group, and any other forum.</li> <li>Continue and strive to undertake the statutory duties and work more with volunteers.</li> </ul>	Choose an item.
<p><b>Preventing Poverty:</b> Prevention, including helping people into work and mitigating the impact of poverty.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walking alone as an activity generated £562 of additional demand in the Welsh economy and around 11,980 person-years of employment (Economic Impact of Walking and hill walking in Wales – Cardiff Business School 2011).</li> <li>Should public rights of way be invested, that it will have a positive impact for tourism and develop job opportunities.</li> </ul>	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be as efficient as possible with the resources available to increase the potential for job growth in adventure tourism across Powys.</li> </ul>	Good
<p><b>Unpaid Carers:</b> Ensuring that unpaid carers views are sought and taken into account</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is not deemed to be an impact, other than perhaps for carers to be aware of what walks are available, especially ones that the person being cared for is physically able to use.</li> </ul>	Unknown		Unknown

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# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



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Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
<b>Safeguarding:</b> Preventing and responding to abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults with health and social care needs who can't protect themselves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguarding is not the primary responsibility of Countryside Services' staff, but it is of course a responsibility of any member of staff to respond to suspected or actual neglect for those who cannot look after themselves.</li> </ul>	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and risk assess whether staff should attend safeguarding awareness course.</li> </ul>	Neutral
<b>Impact on Powys County C Workforce</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potentially improve access opportunities to either commute to work, or increase physical activity during lunchtime and breaks. The improvements to the Lake and the woodland has been provided partly to enable this to provide a positive impact for the workforce that work in Llandrindod Wells.</li> </ul>	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Considering many of Powys Cc as well as the Powys tHB workforce live in Powys, then improving public access within the communities and facilitating the communities to improve and maintain public access will also have a positive impact on their health and well-being.</li> </ul>	Good
<b>Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey results taken from ROWIP 2017 survey.</li> <li>Consultation with Local Access Forum</li> <li>Internal partners.</li> <li>Stakeholder Working Group (a mix of various user groups).</li> <li>Other evidence is sourced within the ROWIP itself using Harvard referencing.</li> </ul>				

### 6. Achievability of proposal?

Impact on Service / Council	Risk to delivery of the proposal	Inherent Risk
Medium	Low	Medium

### 7. What are the risks to service delivery or the council following implementation of this proposal?

Description of risks

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



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Risk Identified	Inherent Risk Rating	Mitigation	Residual Risk Rating
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal notice served upon the Council for not meeting statutory duties.</li> </ul>	Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ROWIP although is a bidding document, and a strategic document to prioritise resources; it is also a defence to legal notice and or proceedings in how and why it has not met its statutory duties.</li> </ul>	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accident happening with volunteers and contractors</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe systems of work in place with appropriate risk assessments and training.</li> </ul>	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuing motorsport events are lawfully run on public highways (s.33 Road Traffic Act 1988)</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current policy is being reviewed to take into account Queen's Counsel opinion and concerns from Officers and motorsport organisers.</li> </ul>	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management of byways and general "off-roading" issues with a continual threat of judicial reviews on any traffic regulation order or matter that motorised user groups disagree with.</li> </ul>	Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powys Byways User Group and expert professional knowledge already developed within the Service.</li> </ul>	High
	High		High
<b>Overall judgement (to be included in project risk register)</b>			
<b>Very High Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>	<b>Medium Risk</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



8. Overall Summary and Judgement of this Impact Assessment?

<b>Outline Assessment (to be inserted in cabinet report)</b>	<b>Cabinet Report Reference:</b>	
The ROWIP is a statutory decennial management plan, for which this is the first review since the first ROWIP was published in 2007. The Council has a number of duties and powers with regard to public access, and the ROWIP sets out how the Council is to maintain and improve public access.		

9. Is there additional evidence to support the Impact Assessment (IA)?

<b>What additional evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?</b>
Nil.

10. On-going monitoring arrangements?

<b>What arrangements will be put in place to monitor the impact over time?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly team meetings.</li> <li>• Quarterly performance indicators on the kilometres opened, repaired and improved.</li> </ul>
<b>Please state when this Impact Assessment will be reviewed.</b>
At any time when the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (not the Delivery Plan) is reviewed.

11. Sign Off

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Service Manager:	Nina Davies		
Head of Service:	Stuart Mackintosh		
Strategic Director:	Ian Budd		
Portfolio Holder:	CLlr Aled Davies		

# FORM ENDS

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5<sup>th</sup> March 2019**REPORT AUTHOR:** County Councillor Aled Davies

Portfolio Holder for Finance

**SUBJECT:** Financial Overview and Forecast as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision / Discussion / Information

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the projected revenue spend against budget for the 2018/19 financial year and reflects the position as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019, it provides an indication of the 2018/19 full year financial forecast.
- 1.2 The revenue expenditure outturn against budget is now projected to be £2.7m (December £3.1m) over budget, this is based on savings achieved to date but also reflects assurance received from budget managers that further savings will be achieved in year.
- 1.3 Savings of £6.129m have been delivered to date, 49.8% of the total £12.296m required, with £6.167m yet to be achieved.
- 1.4 The report has been prepared on an exceptions basis, using actual variance against budget to define the RAG (Red, Amber, Green and Blue) status of the services' financial position. The report only highlights those service areas where projections are forecast to exceed the budget provided, or services that have a significant degree of financial risk on the Council, and where corrective action must be taken to ensure a balanced year end budget, and mitigate any risk for future years.

**2 Revenue Position**

- 2.1 The revenue forecast is summarised in the table below, underlying expenditure is projected to exceed the budget by £3.530m (December £4.340m), excluding Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Delegated Schools. It is important to note that this position is reported based on the current delivery of efficiency savings and does not reflect those that remain to be achieved, we maintain this approach to ensure a prudent position. Given previous years' trends and performance this position is likely to improve as the year progresses.
- 2.2 To counter the prudent approach to reporting savings and better predict the year-end position, this year's reporting also provides a forecast based on the expected delivery of savings. This is only included following assurance from Directors that savings will be achieved or that alternative means of delivery are identified and realistic.
- 2.3 On the basis of expected savings delivery and capitalisation of transformation costs the projected position will be an overspend of £2.737m (December £3.072m) against the approved budget.
- 2.4 Both projections are included in the table below.

Summary Forecast by Directorate	Total Working Budget	Forecast Spend	Variance (Over) / Under Spend		Variance including expected savings delivery	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%
Social Services	84,445	89,054	(4,609)	(5)	(4,609)	(5)
Environment	30,747	31,740	(993)	(3)	(200)	(0)
Schools and Leisure Resources	35,990	35,251	739	2	739	2
Central Activities	18,212	18,059	153	1	153	1
	2,251	1,071	1,180	52	1,180	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>171,645</b>	<b>175,175</b>	<b>(3,530)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(2,737)</b>	<b>(2)</b>
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	0	(59)	59	0	59	0
Schools Delegated	75,358	76,267	(909)	(1)	(909)	(1)
<b>Total including HRA and Delegated Schools</b>	<b>247,003</b>	<b>251,383</b>	<b>(4,380)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3,587)</b>	<b>(1)</b>

2.5 The table in Appendix A details the forecast spend by Service, against approved working budget and shows the projected position based on savings delivery, capitalisation and service performance.

### 3 Reserves

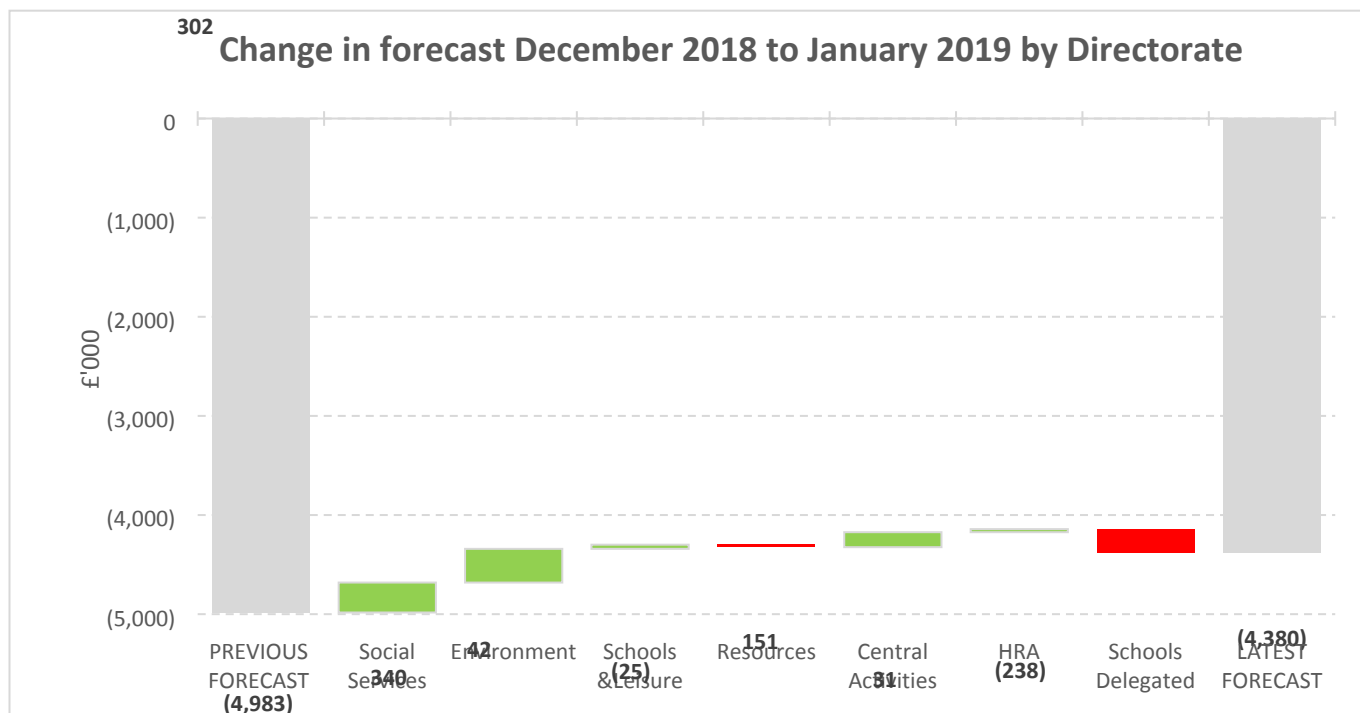
3.1 The total revenue reserves held at 1 April 2018, together with the forecast addition/(use) of reserves during the year and the projected year end balances, as at 31<sup>st</sup> January, are set out in the table in Appendix C. The revenue reserves held at the beginning of the year totalled £40.3m, with £9.7m held in the General Reserve and Specific and Ring fenced reserves of £27.4m. The planned use of reserves to support the overall revenue budget during the year (excluding Schools and HRA) is £10.3m.

3.2 Based on the projections included in this report the overspend would be financed from the General Fund Reserve. With the assurance around the delivery of savings and the capitalisation of transformation costs the impact on the General fund would be £2.7m, reducing the balance to £6.9m this would then represent 4% of the total net revenue budget (excluding Schools and HRA) or 6.1% when including the budget management reserve. This revised position would be in line with the policy set.

3.3 Specific reserves will also be reviewed to identify alternative reserve funding to limit the impact on the General Fund Reserve.

### 4. Revenue Forecast

4.1 The graph below shows the change in forecast, from that reported at the end of December to the projected forecast position as at 31<sup>st</sup> January by Directorate, including HRA and Delegated Schools:



4.2 RAG status has been applied to service variance based on the categories below, and those with a variance calculated as “red” have been explained in more detail below.

- **Red** Overspend above 2%
- **Amber** Overspend of 1-2%
- **Green** +/- 1%
- **Blue** Underspend above 1%

Service Area	Net Budget	Forecast Spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend as a % of Net Budget	Variance RAGB status
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	
<b>Children Services</b>	<b>18,611</b>	<b>24,336</b>	<b>(5,725)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>R</b>

Projected expenditure within Children services has improved by £291k, spend is now forecast to exceed the budget by £5.725m.

The appropriate workforce establishment has been agreed and although funding for this is accommodated within the service budget, many posts are being covered by agency staff at a considerably higher cost per post. 5 agency staff have recently left the Authority and it is assumed they won't be replaced until the beginning of March as the Service are currently unable to source personnel. Based on this, agency is expected to exceed baseline budget by £538.5k.

There is a continuing upward trend in the number of Children looked after (CLA); this has increased by 12 in month to 246 in January. Despite the increase in numbers, the cost of placements during January reduced by £102k due to a reduction in 2 high cost residential placements and changes to service provision, costs are now projected to exceed baseline budget

by £3.45m by the end of the year. Cabinet will note this area sees fluctuations in demand and the levels of complexity make it a very high risk area which is difficult to forecast.

The forecast position also reflects £2.2m of savings that cannot be achieved. This is impacting on the position reported for the current financial year. This has been removed as part of the Council's overall budget strategy for 2019/20.

There are a number of risks that may further impact the financial position, these include: -

- Additional costs backdated in respect of 'Sleep-ins' following the outcome of a judicial review
- Holiday pay liability for relief staff at Golwg y Bannau/Camlas
- Legal costs – the baseline budget has already been utilised.

The financial pressures are mitigated by investment funding that remains unallocated of £810k and additional monies from Welsh Government for "Supporting Sustainable Social Services" totalling approximately £579k.

Service Area	Net Budget	Forecast Spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend as a % of Net Budget	Variance BRAG status
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	
<b>Highways, Transport &amp; Recycling (HTR)</b>	<b>21,340</b>	<b>22,940</b>	<b>(1,600)</b>	<b>(7.5)</b>	<b>R</b>

The overspend in this area has reduced by £93k since the position reported at the end of December. Unachieved savings at this point in the year total £1.103m and are the main reason for the projected position.

The service is forecasting overspends against some areas of budget: -

- Underachievement of income in respect of Trade Waste collection of £177k and a forecast overspend in Domestic Waste of £413k, due to continuing increased fuel costs, additional costs of depreciation for vehicles and increased vehicle hire costs in domestic waste.
- An over spend of £150k within the fleet workshops as a result of an over spend on materials and parts, and a pressure resulting from not being able to negate all income lost with reductions in overheads, due to a decrease in the fleet held by the Council and the associated in-house maintenance.
- The forecast overspend on Public Transport has increased to £561k as a result of the re-tender exercise and a loss of income on the T4 route due to the impact of the commercialisation of part of the route not foreseen during the tender process. Revenue grant anticipated from Welsh Government is not available, however, a capital grant has been received and will be used to reduce revenue costs but the impact will not be realised until 2019/20 financial year.
- These over spends are offset by an under spend of £110k as a result of the spend freeze, the Design team forecast to overachieve their budgeted contribution by £100k and an underspend of £369k on waste contracts, due to increased income from sale of recyclable material and lower than budgeted spend on landfill tax.

An additional £120k of savings are expected to be achieved within HTR by the end of the year. This along with other factors; such as grant monies and income expected but not yet confirmed,

contribute to the revised forecast which shows a significantly improved year end position for the Environment Directorate of approximately £200k overspend.

4.3 Other Service areas which are not RAG status RED but due to a high level of scrutiny, further information is also provided below.

Service Area	Net Budget	Forecast Spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend as a % of Net Budget	Variance BRAG status
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	
<b>Adult Social Care</b>	<b>65,834</b>	<b>64,718</b>	<b>1,116</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>G</b>

The forecast underspend position within Adult Social Care has increased by a further £11k from December, with the year end position now projected at £1.116m. The improvement is attributed to the Service achieving all of its 2018/19 savings.

Of the original £2.2m investment, £200k has been committed to procure external advice for the BUPA re-tender and £491k still remains to be allocated to Service budget headings. As agreed this will only be released on presentation of business cases which satisfy criteria set out by full council.

The forecast does not account for future demography, learning disability transitions, contractual agreements including uplifts or winter pressures. In addition, the liability associated with the recent judicial review relating to the payment of the National Living Wage in respect of "Sleep-ins" is still being calculated for the in-house service and legal direction has been sought re external providers. These pressures suggest that the position in the next financial year (2019/20) will be challenging.

<b>Schools Delegated</b>	<b>75,358</b>	<b>76,267</b>	<b>(909)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>G</b>
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The BRAG rating of Green reflects the projected outturn against budget plans submitted by the Schools. These plans include a significant draw on their delegated reserves. Budget plans across the primary sector expect to draw a net £486k from reserves, and £160k in the Special sector. This will be updated monthly going forward.

Approved budget plans and forecasts received for Secondary schools reported to cabinet, projected a net £1.2m in year draw from reserves, however, end of year projections last month showed a further deficit of £604k. In line with the Scheme for Financing schools, Secondary Schools are required to submit monthly forecast end of year projections, and if not received will be notified of the failure to comply with the scheme, continued non-compliance will result in a notice of concern.

## 5. Savings

5.1 The table below summarises the delivery of the savings including those that remained undelivered in prior years; £6.1m or 49.8% has been delivered. For prudence the forecast includes savings that have been achieved or have progressed to a point where there is confidence in final delivery taking place. It does not reflect expectations that are not currently being realised.

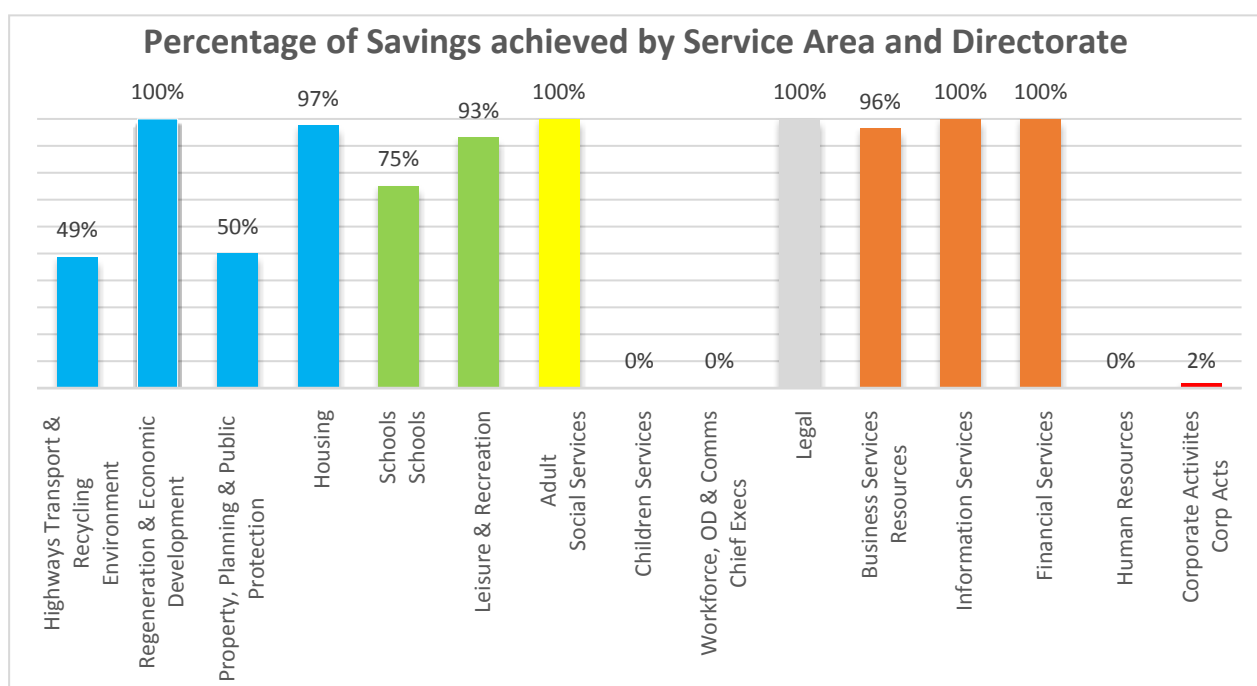
5.2 Savings included in previous budget plans which remain outstanding, and which are now undeliverable, have been removed from the budget plan for 2019/20. £3.9m of these unachieved savings are included in the figures reported below.

	<b>Target £'000</b>	<b>Delivered £'000</b>	<b>Variance £'000</b>
2015/16	1,157	77	1,080
2016/17	321	0	321
2017/18	1,975	420	1,555
2018/19	8,843	5,632	3,211
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,296</b>	<b>6,129</b>	<b>6,167</b>

5.2 Further analysis of the unachieved savings showing the RAG status by Directorate is provided in the table below. Further detail by Service area can be found in Appendix B.

<b>UPDATE ON DELIVERY OF SAVINGS PROPOSALS BY RAG</b>				
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>TOTAL UNACHIEVED SAVINGS AS AT 31st January 2019</b>
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Social Services	2,298	0	0	2,298
Environment	0	1,257	23	1,280
Schools	394	49	0	443
Resources	50	26	0	76
Corporate Activities	1,963	0	0	1,963
Chief Executives	107	0	0	107
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,812</b>	<b>1,332</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6,167</b>

5.3 The graph below shows the percentage of savings achieved to date by Service Area and Directorate.



**6 Virements and Grants to be accepted**

- 6.1 A Welsh Government Grant to support reducing the need for Children to enter care in 2018/19 of £28,788 has been received.

**7 Other**

The 2017-18 Rhayader Leisure Centre Trust Fund Accounts (the elected members of the Council are the Trustees of the Charity) have been independently examined and were filed with the Charity Commission before the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 deadline.

**8 Options Considered/Available**

No alternative options are considered appropriate as a result of this report.

**9 Preferred Choice and Reasons**

None to consider.

**10 Impact Assessment**

Is an impact assessment required?                      Yes/No

**11 Corporate Improvement Plan**

To achieve the Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) objectives the Council undertakes forward planning with its medium term financial strategy (MTFS) - this sets out the financial requirements to deliver the short and longer term council vision. These capital and revenue monitoring reports are used to ensure the funding identified to deliver the council priorities is spent appropriately and remains within a cash limited budget.

**12 Local Member(s)**

This report relates to all service areas across the whole County.

**13 Other Front Line Services**

This report relates to all service areas across the whole County.

**14 Communications**

Budget information is of interest to internal and external audiences and regular updates are provided by the Portfolio Holder for Finance. Detailed finance reports are presented to Heads of Service, Cabinet and the Audit Committee. These reports are public and are part of a range of statutory and non-statutory financial information documents including the Statement of Accounts.

**15 Support Services (Legal, Finance, HR, ICT, BPU)**

This report has no specific impact on support services other than reporting on those service areas financial outturns. Financial Services work closely with all service areas in monitoring financial performance against budgets.

**16 Scrutiny**

Has this report been scrutinised?                      Yes / No

**17 Data Protection**

If the proposal involves the processing of personal data then the Data Protection Officer must be consulted and their comments set out below.

**18 Statutory Officers**

The Head of Financial Services (Deputy Section 151 Officer) has provided the following comment:

The projected position continues to report a deficit outturn. The option to capitalise transformation costs provides an opportunity to improve the revenue position and this together with assurance that savings for some Directorates will be delivered significantly reduces the overall deficit projected.

The Council has made a significant level of investment into social care services in Powys. The additional funding provided budget to support the increased level of demand experienced in both service areas and also funded the detailed plans for improvement. Demand within Children’s services continues and placement costs are already exceeding the increased level of budget. This continues to be an area of financial risk for the Council.

The Council needs to further address the projected deficit and deliver an outturn more in line with the approved budget. The actions taken to date have improved the projected forecast, but given the pressure on the revenue budget Cabinet have supported the S151 Officer’s requirement to further control discretionary expenditure until the end of the financial year this will limit the impact on the general fund reserve.

School budgets particularly those within the secondary sector, remain a risk that needs to be addressed, compliance work and action is crucial to ensure that this is managed effectively.

The Monitoring Officer has no specific concerns with this report.

**19 Members’ Interests**

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest, they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

<b>Recommendation:</b>		<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
<b>a. That the contents of this report are noted.</b> <b>b. To accept the grant detailed in para 6.1</b> <b>c. That given the pressure on the revenue budget the Cabinet supports the S151 Officer’s requirement to control discretionary expenditure until the end of the financial year</b>		<b>To monitor the council’s financial performance and ensure that spending remains within approved limits and that the 3% minimum general fund reserve is maintained.</b>
<b>Relevant Policy(ies):</b>	<b>Financial Regulations:</b>	



<b>Within policy:</b>	Yes	<b>Within Budget:</b>	n/a
<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>			
<b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>		Jane Thomas	
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>		Ongoing	
<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Tel</b>	<b>E mail</b>	
Jane Thomas	01597 827789	<a href="mailto:jane.thomas@powys.gov.uk">jane.thomas@powys.gov.uk</a>	

### Forecast Outturn and Undelivered Savings as at 31st January 2019

Service Area	Net Budget	Forecast Spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend	Total Unachieved Savings as at 31st January 2019	Service Under/(Over) spend excl. unachieved savings	Variance (Over) / Under spend as a % of Net Budget	Variance BRAG status
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	
<b>Social Services</b>							
Adult & Commissioning	65,834	64,718	1,116	0	1,116	1.7	B
Children Services	18,611	24,336	(5,725)	(2,298)	(3,427)	(30.8)	R
<b>Environment</b>							
Regeneration	1,412	1,317	95	0	95	6.7	B
Property Planning and Public Protection	7,120	6,639	481	(152)	633	6.8	B
Housing General Fund	875	844	31	(2)	33	3.5	B
Highways, Transport & Recycling	21,340	22,940	(1,600)	(1,126)	(474)	(7.5)	R
<b>Schools</b>							
Schools Service	27,227	26,878	349	(394)	743	1.3	B
Leisure & Recreation	8,763	8,373	390	(49)	439	4.5	B
<b>Resources</b>							
Business Services	6,576	6,471	105	(26)	131	1.6	B
Information Services	4,164	4,155	9	0	9	0.2	G
Legal Services	3,058	3,028	30	0	30	1.0	G
Financial Services	1,892	1,834	58	0	58	3.1	B
<b>Workforce, OD and Comms</b>	2,522	2,571	(49)	(157)	108	(1.9)	A
<b>Service Area Totals</b>	<b>169,394</b>	<b>174,104</b>	<b>(4,710)</b>	<b>(4,204)</b>	<b>(506)</b>	<b>(2.8)</b>	
Central Activities	2,251	1,071	1,180	(1,963)	3,143	52.4	B
<b>Total</b>	<b>171,645</b>	<b>175,175</b>	<b>(3,530)</b>	<b>(6,167)</b>	<b>2,637</b>	<b>(2.1)</b>	
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	0	(59)	59	0	59	0.0	G
Schools Delegated	75,358	76,267	(909)	0	(909)	(1.2)	A
<b>Total including HRA</b>	<b>247,003</b>	<b>251,383</b>	<b>(4,380)</b>	<b>(6,167)</b>	<b>1,787</b>		

EFFICIENCY TRACKER AS AT 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2019

APPENDIX B

Efficiency / Saving	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Total to be Achieved 18/19	Total Achieved to Date	Remainder to find	Achieved
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	%
<b>Environment</b>								
Highways Transport & Recycling	0	0	270	1,923	2,194	1,068	1,126	49%
Regeneration & Economic Development	0	0	0	100	100	100	0	100%
Property, Planning & Public Protection	0	0	31	272	303	151	152	50%
Housing	0	0	0	86	86	84	2	97%
<b>Environment</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>2,381</b>	<b>2,683</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>Schools</b>								
Schools	158	0	49	1,376	1,583	1,189	394	75%
Leisure & Recreation	0	0	0	709	709	660	49	93%
<b>Schools</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>2,085</b>	<b>2,292</b>	<b>1,849</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>81%</b>
<b>Social Services</b>								
Adult	0	0	0	1,432	1,432	1,432	0	100%
Children Services	0	1	1,101	1,197	2,298	0	2,298	0%
<b>Social Services</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>2,629</b>	<b>3,730</b>	<b>1,432</b>	<b>2,298</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Chief Executives</b>								
Workforce, OD & Comms	0	0	0	107	107	0	107	0%
Legal	0	0	0	61	61	61	0	100%
<b>Chief Executives</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>Resources</b>								
Business Services	0	0	92	623	715	689	26	96%
Information Services	0	0	32	323	354	354	0	100%
Financial Services	0	0	0	303	303	303	0	100%
Human Resources	0	0	0	50	50	0	50	0%
<b>Resources</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>1,299</b>	<b>1,422</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>95%</b>
Corporate Activiites	999	320	400	281	2,001	38	1,963	2%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>1,975</b>	<b>8,843</b>	<b>12,296</b>	<b>6,129</b>	<b>6,167</b>	<b>50%</b>

RESERVES BALANCES AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2019

## APPENDIX C

Summary	Opening Balance (1st April 18) Surplus / (Deficit)	Forecast Addition / (Use) of Reserves	Forecast (Over) / Under Spend	Projected Balance (31st March 19) Surplus/ (Deficit)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Fund	9,680	(1)	(2,737)	6,942
	<b>9,680</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(2,737)</b>	<b>6,942</b>
<b>Ringfenced &amp; Specific Reserves</b>				
Budget Management Reserve	3,584	0		3,584
Specific Reserves	2,356	130		2,486
21st Century Schools Reserve	5,524	(5,045)		479
Adult Services Reserve	2,750	(2,004)		746
Regeneration Reserve	100	0		100
HOWPS	185	(185)		0
Mid Wales Growth Fund	150	(25)		125
Highways Reserve	57	(57)		0
Invest to Save & Corporate Initiatives (inc J	5,830	(1,031)		4,799
Insurance Reserve	1,587	0		1,587
Transport & Equipment Funding Reserve	6,163	(2,082)		4,081
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>28,286</b>	<b>(10,299)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17,987</b>
Schools Delegated Reserves	(693)	(1,587)	(909)	(3,189)
School Loans & Other Items	(185)	7		(178)
<b>Net School Delegated Reserves</b>	<b>(878)</b>	<b>(1,580)</b>	<b>(909)</b>	<b>(3,367)</b>
<b>Total Ringfenced &amp; Specific Reserves</b>	<b>27,408</b>	<b>(11,879)</b>	<b>(909)</b>	<b>14,620</b>
Housing Revenue Account	3,267	212	59	3,538
	<b>3,267</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>3,538</b>
<b>Total Revenue Reserves</b>	<b>40,355</b>	<b>(11,668)</b>	<b>(3,587)</b>	<b>25,100</b>

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.  
CABINET EXECUTIVE**

**5 March 2019**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Aled Davies  
Portfolio Holder for Finance**

**SUBJECT: Capital Programme Update for the period to 31<sup>st</sup> January  
2019**

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**REPORT FOR: Decision**

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Capital Governance Framework identifies multiple points within a project's life cycle where decisions have to be made to progress. These decisions vary from approval of options for further analysis, to final investment decisions and change control.
- 1.2 This monthly Capital report on the status of all projects within the Capital strategy, is an integral part of the Governance Framework for Capital development works. It ensures that stakeholders are engaged in evaluation and decision-making and encourages a disciplined governance that includes approval gateways at which prudence, affordability and sustainability of projects are reviewed.
- 1.3 The Revised working budget for the 2018/19 Capital Programme, after accounting for approved virements, is £92.131m (The Original budget was £87.703m). The increase in budget is largely due to virements from previous year's programme that have lapsed into 2018/19.
- 1.4 The actual spend to the end of January is £50.553m and a further £28.652m has been committed. This leaves £12.926m or 14.0% of the budget uncommitted at the end of January. Of this £8.918m is in Highways, Transport and Recycling.
- 1.5 Table 1 below summarises the position for each portfolio and service.

**Table 1 Capital Table as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019**

Service	Original Budget	Virements Approved	Virements Required by Cabinet	Virements Required by Council	Revised Working Budget 2018/19 as at 31st January 2019 (after virements approved & required)	Actuals & Commitments	Remaining Budget	
	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	%
<b>People</b>								
Adult Services & Commissioning	819	502	-360	0	961	264	697	72.5%
Childrens Services	0	141	0	0	141	78	63	44.7%
Housing	1,825	1,016	0	0	2,841	1,983	858	30.2%
<b>Schools and Inclusion Workforce, OD and Comms</b>	39,367	6,112	-1,097	-10,661	33,721	35,330	-1,609	-4.8%
<b>Resources</b>								
Business Services	0	298	-193	0	105	131	-26	-24.8%
Information Services	1,610	947	-1,144	0	1,413	986	427	30.2%
Legal Services	0	19	0	0	19	0	19	100.0%
Financial Services	578	-509	0	0	69	0	69	100.0%
Corporate Activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Place</b>								
Highways, Transport & Recycling	16,380	10,418	0	-3,023	23,775	15,586	8,189	34.4%
Leisure & Recreation	3,357	5,964	0	0	9,321	5,898	3,423	36.7%
Regeneration	1,125	-459	0	0	666	237	429	64.4%
Property, Planning And Public Protection	2,503	3,216	-130	-2,886	2,703	1,682	1,021	37.8%
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>67,564</b>	<b>27,665</b>	<b>-2,924</b>	<b>-16,570</b>	<b>75,735</b>	<b>62,175</b>	<b>13,560</b>	<b>17.9%</b>
Housing Revenue Account	20,139	6,518	-3,210	-7,051	16,396	17,030	-634	-3.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87,703</b>	<b>34,183</b>	<b>-6,134</b>	<b>-23,621</b>	<b>92,131</b>	<b>79,205</b>	<b>12,926</b>	<b>14.0%</b>

1.6 The funding of the capital programme is shown in Table 2 below. It has been revised from the original budget of £87.703m to £92.131m as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to reflect virements and re-profiling of the capital programme. This matches the projected expenditure to ensure a balanced budget.

**1.7 Table 2 Funding of the Capital Budget as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019**

Revised Working Budget 2018/19 as at 31st January 2019 (after virements approved and required)						
Capital	-12,394	-20,675	-34,322	-5,667	-2,677	<b>-75,735</b>
HRA	0	-6,985	-3,792	-5,085	-534	<b>-16,396</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>-12,394</b>	<b>-27,660</b>	<b>-38,114</b>	<b>-10,752</b>	<b>-3,211</b>	<b>-92,131</b>

## 2. **Proposal**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet note the contents of this report and recommend all virements over £500k to the Council for approval and approve all of the other virements listed below:
- 2.2 **Business Services: Cashless System** The project to provide a Cashless System for school dinners has been implemented. It is recommended that the budget of £192,799 is returned to the corporate unallocated budget to be used for other overspends in 2018/19.
- 2.3 **ICT: Finance System** The project to upgrade E-Financials and associated systems is now anticipated to cost £106,235 more than the original budget. This virement recommends funding this project from the Corporate Unallocated budget mentioned in 2.2 above.
- 2.4 **Property, Planning And Public Protection: Presteigne Cemetery Extension** A capital allocation was granted for the purchase of additional land at Presteigne and develop a cemetery extension. The full capital allocation was £170k. The land was purchased for £47,045.84 in January 2018. In order to satisfy planning conditions, details of the site infrastructure had to be submitted by Hereford Planning Authority. The plans were approved in November.
- In October, Powys County Council (PCC) was informed by Presteigne and Norton Town Council that the owner of land to the north of the cemetery would be willing to sell the land to facilitate the development of the cemetery extension. Prior to this PCC intended to access the extension area via the existing entrance. The access is poor and meant that a road would have to be created around existing memorials. Additionally, the original proposal would not afford additional parking.
- If PCC were to purchase the land, then this would provide improved access to the cemetery and provide car parking facilities. The original business case for the project was amended to reflect the opportunity to purchase additional land and was approved by the Acting Head of Property, Planning and Public Protection and Commercial Services. A Portfolio Holder is currently being prepared to approve the purchase of the additional land.
- In light of these developments, the project will now be delivered in 19/20. This virement recommends that £163,830 is rolled forward to 19/20.
- 2.5 **Property, Planning And Public Protection: Office Accommodation Review** It is recommended to roll forward capital funding of £130K at County Hall in respect of delivering the continued refurbishment of the building. Due to the constraints of the building, works to individual office areas has to be phased. The next phase of works at County Hall will take place from April 2019 and will finalise the upper floor refurbishment of the building. The improvement works will remedy significant health and safety concerns and additionally will improve energy efficiency and reduce the annual revenue spend by approximately £20k.

- 2.6 **Property, Planning And Public Protection: Ladywell House** It is recommended to roll forward £2.2225m to 2019/20. The Project Board has accepted a revised project completion of August 2019. This is a result of design delays and the need to fit windows in spring / summer. We therefore need to roll money forward to cover the works.
- 2.7 **Property, Planning And Public Protection: Business Units at Abermule Business Park** It is recommended to roll forward £663K in 2019/20. The project programme has been revised to accommodate a longer lead time for detailed design, ground works and construction. We therefore need to roll money forward to cover the works.
- 2.8 **Schools: Crickhowell High School Extension** The work to provide an extension at Crickhowell High School has been delayed because of planning issues. It is recommended to roll forward £692k to 19/20.
- 2.9 **Schools: Major Improvements** The Major Improvement Programme includes a project to provide a 3G pitch with a £300k budget funded from a unsecured contribution. It is recommended that this project is removed from the programme until the contribution has been received. In addition design work is progressing on the early years works at Ysgol Llanbrymair with a view to undertake the works during the school summer holidays. It is therefore recommended to roll forward £105k to 2019/20.
- 2.9 **Housing Revenue Account: Welsh Quality Housing Standard (WHQS)** The WHQS budget for 18/19 was revised to £16.958m. It is now recommended that the budget for the following projects are revised as per Table 3. The revised budget is £11.908m.

**Table 3 HRA Virements**

Job Name	Current Budget £'000	Proposed Virement £'000	Revised Budget £'000
Estate Works North - 11	£1,390	£-1,200	£190
Estate Works South - 14	£1,390	£-1,130	£260
To be recommended to Council	£2,780	£-2,330	£450
Rewiring North - 5	£278	£-230	£48
Roofing North - 9	£1,500	£-200	£1,300
Roofing South - 12	£1,450	£-650	£800
Wallwork North - 10	£250	£-250	£0
Wallwork South - 13	£590	£-290	£300
Gwaelod - Y - Bryn	£246	£-240	£6
2018 Energy Efficiency (Insulation)	£250	£-110	£140
To be recommended to Cabinet	£4,564	£-1,970	£2,594



## 2.10 Housing Revenue Account: Other HRA Works

The budget for other HRA works is currently £8.372m. It is now recommended that the budget for the following projects are revised as per Table 4. The revised budget will be £3.161m.

**Table 4 Other HRA Work Virements**

Project Name	Current Budget £'000	Proposed Virement £'000	Revised Budget £'000
Level Access Bungalows North	£1,549	-£800	£749
Level Access Bungalows South	£1,315	-£1,310	£5
	£1,861	-£1,861	£0
To be recommended to Council	£4,726	-£3,971	£755
2018 Communal Areas	£250	-£240	£10
2018 Fire Safety Works	£250	-£250	£0
2018 Damp/Water Ingress Works	£500	-£450	£50
2018 Radon Works	£100	-£100	£0
2018 Photo-Voltaic (Solar Panels)	£200	-£200	£0
To be recommended to Cabinet	£1,300	-£1,240	£60

**2.11 Highways, Transport and Recycling – Recycling Bulking Facility, North Powys** The amount of the roll forward for this project needs to increase from £2,723,482.23 to £3,223,482.23, an increase of £300k because of a revised forecast.

## 3 Grants Received

**3.1 £2.606m General Capital Grant** Welsh Government have awarded the authority additional General Capital Grant. This has been used to replace £2.606m Prudential Borrowing in 2018/19.

## 4 Project Update

**4.1 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools:** Work on the Band A phase of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme is progressing well. The only exception is the Welshpool catchment area schools. The decision by Cadw to list the Ysgol Maesydre has had a huge impact, on both the Budget and the timelines of the project. Consequently, the Welsh Medium School has been deferred to Band B of the programme.

- 4.2 **Housing:** A review of the HRA budgets has been undertaken in January and the revised budget now reflect the anticipated outturn figures. The HRA outturn is now expected to be £16.3m. The service has an actual spend of £11.23m with commitments of £5.7m.
- 4.3 **Highways, Transport and Recycling (HTR):** have a working budget of £23.8m. Total spend at the end of January, including commitment is £15.586m, representing 65.6% of budget. Finance are monitoring the project performance with project officers to ensure that work is progressed in line with expectation.
- 5 **Capital Receipts**
- 5.1 The current capital receipt end of year forecast, excluding the HRA right to buy, for 2018/19 is £1.822m for Property and £3.535m for County Farms, of which £252k has been agreed subject to contract and should be received before year end. Three sales of £729k has been completed as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019, Land and Property sales £175k; Smallholding/Farm Sales £554k.
- 5.2 The suspension of the Right to Buy for the HRA for Powys came into effect on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The disposals this year relate to properties where the tenant had applied before the suspension. Five sales have been completed as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 amounting to £539k.
6. **Options Considered / Available**
- 6.1 N/A
- 7 **Preferred Choice and Reasons**
- 7.1 N/A
- 8 **Impact Assessment**
- 8.1 Is an impact assessment required?                      Yes/No
- 9 **Corporate Improvement Plan**
- 9.1 To achieve the Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) objectives the Council undertakes forward planning with its medium term financial strategy (MTFS) - this sets out the financial requirements to deliver the short and longer term council vision. These capital and revenue monitoring reports, are used to ensure the funding identified to deliver the council priorities is spent appropriately and remains within a cash limited budget.
- 10 **Local Member(s)**
- 10.1 This report relates to all service areas across the whole County.
- 11 **Other Front Line Services**
- 11.1 This report relates to all service areas across the whole County

## 12 **Communications**

12.1 Have Communications seen a copy of this report? Yes/No

Have they made a comment? If Yes insert here.

## 13 **Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)**

13.1 This report has no specific impact on support services other than reporting on those service areas with capital programmes. Financial Services work closely with all service areas in monitoring financial performance on capital programmes against budgets.

### 13.2 **Finance**

This monthly Capital report on the status of all projects within the Capital strategy is an integral part of the Governance Framework for Capital development works.

The virements proposed in section 2 of this report, are to align the actual works expected to be done in the current financial year to the funding required to finance such Capital works. This is a prudent approach to ensure that the Council only makes available what is required to finance the Capital expenditure. There are no exceptional financial implications to be reported at this time.

## 13 Scrutiny

Has this report been scrutinised? Yes / No?

## 14 **Data Protection**

N/A

## 15 **Statutory Officers**

The Head of Financial Services & Deputy Section 151 Officer notes the contents in the report.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer notes the content of the report and makes no specific comment upon the same.

## 16. **Members' Interests**

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest, they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

<b>Recommendation:</b>		<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>	
<p>1. The contents of this report are noted by Cabinet.</p> <p>2. That Cabinet approves the virement proposed in section 2 of this report.</p>		<p>To outline the capital budget position as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019.</p> <p>To ensure appropriate virements, are carried out.to align budgets with spending plans.</p>	
Relevant Policy (ies):			
<b>Within Policy:</b>	<b>Y / N</b>	<b>Within Budget:</b>	<b>Y / N</b>
Contact Officer: Jane Thomas Tel: 01597-826290 Email: <a href="mailto:jane.thomas@powyscc.gov.uk">jane.thomas@powyscc.gov.uk</a>			

<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	
<b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>	
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>	
<b>Is a review of the impact of the decision required?</b>	<b>Y / N</b>
<b>If yes, date of review</b>	
<b>Person responsible for the review</b>	
<b>Date review to be presented to Portfolio Holder/ Cabinet for information or further action</b>	

**Background Papers used to prepare Report:**

## Delegated Decision List

8 February	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance, Housing and Public Protection	Approved Love where you Live as the Council's Tenancy Sustainability Strategy.
8 February	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Recycling and Assets	Authorised the commencement of the legal public consultation procedure for the proposed traffic regulation order for the Modification of 7.5 tonne Maximum Gross Weight Order for New Bridge Vyrnwy, Llanymynech to remove prohibition of right turn movements.
11 February	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance, Housing and Public Protection	Approved the purchase of a property in Presteigne
13 February	Portfolio Holder for Young People and Culture Portfolio Holder for Highways, Recycling and Assets	Approved the co-location of Welshpool Library with Powysland Museum at the current Powysland Museum building.
15 February	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Recycling and Assets	Authorised the commencement the legal public consultation procedure for proposed traffic regulation orders for the Modification of One-Way Traffic Regulation Order and the Modification of On Street Waiting and Loading Prohibition Order to facilitate changes to Welshpool Gyratory System.
20 February	Portfolio Holder for Learning and Welsh Language	Approved the appointment of School Governors: Mrs J Jenkins to Arddleen CP School, Mr M Cheshire to Caersws CP School and Mr H Richards to Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng.
26 February	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Recycling and Assets	Approved the sale of land adjacent to Brynafon Mawr, Cemmaes Road, Machynlleth.

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Cabinet Date	Cabinet/EMT Title	Portfolio Holder	Lead	Decision Maker
12/02/19	Changes of Functions of NTSEAT	James Evans	James Munro	Portfolio Holder
			Beverley	
28/02/19	Food Hygiene Rating System Audit by FSA	James Evans	Cadwallader	Portfolio Holder
28/02/19	08/01/19 Developments of National Significance	Martin Weale	Gwilym Davies	Portfolio Holder
28/02/19	Changes to the Housing Allocation Scheme	James Evans	Simon Inkson	Portfolio Holder
			Mark Stafford-	
05/03/19	19/02/19 Rights of Way Improvement Plan	Aled Wyn Davies	Tolley	Cabinet
05/03/19	19/02/19 Budget Outturn as at January 2019	Aled Wyn Davies	Jane Thomas	Cabinet
		Myfanwy Catherine		
05/03/19	19/02/19 Schools Major Improvements Programme	Alexander	Marianne Evans	Cabinet
05/03/19	19/02/19 Vision 2025 CIP Review	Rosemarie Harris	Emma Palmer	Cabinet
05/03/19	19/02/19 Business Rates High Street and Retail Relief scheme 2019-20	Aled Wyn Davies	Andrew Griffiths	Cabinet
12/03/19	19/02/19 School Organisation Proposal Banw and Llanerfyl Schools	Aled Wyn Davies	Marianne Evans	Cabinet
	School Reorganisation – Llanfyllin All Through School	Myfanwy Catherine		
12/03/19	Consultation Report	Alexander	Marianne Evans	Cabinet
		Myfanwy Catherine		
26/03/19	12/03/19 Post 16 Review update	Alexander	Joni Hughes	Cabinet
26/03/19	12/03/19 Development of a Gypsy and Travellers site in Machynlleth	James Evans	Simon Inkson	Cabinet
26/03/19	12/03/19 HRA Business Plan	James Evans	Simon Inkson	Cabinet
26/03/19	12/03/19 Vision 2025: Our CIP Quarter 3 2018-19 Performance Report	Aled Wyn Davies	Garry Hudson	Cabinet
		Myfanwy Catherine		
26/03/19	12/03/19 Home to school Transport - Post 16 and Welsh Medium	Alexander	Marianne Evans	Cabinet
26/03/19	12/03/19 Feasibility Study	James Evans	Nia Hughes	Cabinet
26/03/19	12/03/19 Children's Pledge	Rachel Powell	Daniel Harper	Cabinet
26/03/19	12/03/19 Transfer of properties from general fund to Housing	Phyl Davies	Natasha Morgan	Cabinet
26/03/19	12/03/19 Upper House Farm, Crickhowell	Phyl Davies	Natasha Morgan	Cabinet
26/03/19	12/03/19 Corporate Asset Policy Review	Phyl Davies	Natasha Morgan	Cabinet
26/03/19	Inter Authority Agreement with Ceredigion County Council	Rosemarie Harris	Clive Pinney	Cabinet

26/03/19	12/03/19	The development of extra care housing across the county and the disposal of Neuadd Maldwyn, Welshpool	Phyl Davies	Simon Inkson	Cabinet
26/03/19		Celtic Energy	Aled Wyn Davies	Ann Owen	Cabinet
29/03/19		Lake Vrynwy	Phyl Davies	Alastair Knox	Portfolio Holder
29/03/19		Parking Charges and Concessions	Phyl Davies	Tony Caine	Portfolio Holder
29/03/19		Llandrindod On-Street Parking	Phyl Davies	Tony Caine	Portfolio Holder
29/03/19		Highways Capital	Phyl Davies	Shaun James	Portfolio Holder
30/04/19	09/04/19	HAMP	Phyl Davies	Alastair Knox	Cabinet
30/04/19	09/04/19	Prosecution enforcement policy	James Evans	Clive Jones	Cabinet
30/04/19	09/04/19	Scrap Metal Dealers & Delegation	James Evans	Beverley Cadwallader	Cabinet
30/04/19	09/04/19	Gender Pay report	James Evans	Bets Ingram	Cabinet
30/04/19	09/04/19	Housing association development programme (PDP)	James Evans	Simon Inkson	Cabinet
30/04/19	09/04/19	Supplementary Planning Guidance - Renewable Energy & Landscape	Martin Weale	Peter Morris	Cabinet
30/04/19	09/04/19	Budget Outturn as at February 2019	Aled Wyn Davies	Jane Thomas	Cabinet
30/04/19	09/04/19	BESD & Pupil Referral Unit Provision	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander	Imtiaz Bhatti	Cabinet
30/04/19	09/04/19	Specialist Centre Provision	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander	Imtiaz Bhatti	Cabinet
30/04/19	16/04/19	Prosecution Enforcement Policy	James Evans	Clive Jones	Cabinet
30/04/19	16/04/19	Newtown Strategic Outline Case	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander	Marianne Evans	Cabinet
21/05/19	07/05/19	Implications of Grenfell (awaiting Inspector's report)	Martin Weale	Ian Maddox	Portfolio Holder
21/05/19	07/05/19	Public toilets strategy	Martin Weale	Peter Morris	Cabinet
21/05/19	07/05/19	Treasury Management Quarter 4 report	Aled Wyn Davies	Ann Owen	Cabinet
21/05/19	07/05/19	Annual employment monitoring report	James Evans	Bets Ingram	Cabinet
21/05/19	07/05/19	Light review of the Strategic Equality Plan	James Evans	Bets Ingram	Cabinet
21/05/19	07/05/19	Evaluation of the impact of the roll out of full service universal credit on HRA rent arrears	James Evans	Simon Inkson	Cabinet
21/05/19	07/05/19	Budget Outturn as at 31 March 2019	Aled Wyn Davies	Jane Thomas	Cabinet
21/05/19	07/05/19	Budget Outturn 2018/19	Aled Wyn Davies	Jane Thomas	Cabinet



21/05/19	07/05/19	Brecon Outline Business Case	Phyl Davies	Natasha Morgan	Cabinet
21/05/19	07/05/19	Health & Care Strategy – Statements of Intent	Cllr Stephen Hayes	Dylan Owen	Cabinet
31/05/19		Consolidation of Parking	Phyl Davies	Shaun James	Portfolio Holder
31/05/19		Minimum Unit Prices	James Evans	Clive Jones	Portfolio Holder
18/06/19	04/06/19	South Office Review	Phyl Davies	Natasha Morgan	Cabinet
18/06/19	04/06/19	Review of WHQS compliance policy	James Evans	Simon Inkson	Cabinet
18/06/19		Vision 2025: Our CIP Quarter 4 2018-19 Performance Report	Aled Wyn Davies	Rhian Jones	Cabinet
18/06/19	04/06/19	FINAL Vision 2025: Our CIP 2019/20 Update and Annual Report 2018-19	Aled Wyn Davies	Rhian Jones	Cabinet
18/06/19	04/06/19	Towards 2040 (PSB Well-being Plan) Annual Report	Aled Wyn Davies	Rhian Jones	Cabinet
18/06/19	04/06/19	Medium Term Financial Strategy	Aled Wyn Davies	Jane Thomas	Cabinet
18/06/19	04/06/19	School Reorganisation – Llanerfyl and Banw Objection Report	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander	Marianne Evans	Cabinet
18/06/19	04/06/19	Regional Technical Statement	Martin Weale	Peter Morris	Cabinet
18/06/19	04/06/19	School Balances	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander	Richard Waggett	Cabinet
09/07/19	25/06/19	Strategic Equality Plan End of Year Monitoring Report	James Evans	Bets Ingram	Cabinet
09/07/19	25/06/19	Local Housing Market Assessment	James Evans	Simon Inkson	Cabinet
09/07/19	25/06/19	Implementation of the Renting Homes Act 2014	James Evans	Simon Inkson	Cabinet
09/07/19	25/06/19	HRA New Build Programme	James Evans	Simon Inkson	Cabinet
09/07/19	25/06/19	Budget Outturn Report as at 31 May 2019	Aled Wyn Davies	Jane Thomas	Cabinet
09/07/19	25/06/19	Libraries Options report following consultation	Rachel Powell	Kay Thomas	Cabinet
09/07/19	25/06/19	Llanfyllin All Through School Objection Report	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander	Marianne Evans	Cabinet
30/07/19	16/07/19	Treasury Management Review Report 2018/19	Aled Wyn Davies	Ann Owen	Cabinet
30/07/19	16/07/19	Treasury Management Quarter 1 Report	Aled Wyn Davies	Ann Owen	Cabinet
30/07/19	16/07/19	Budget Outturn Report as at 30 June 2019	Aled Wyn Davies	Jane Thomas	Cabinet
30/07/19	16/07/19	Corporate Safeguarding 6 Monthly Update	Cllr Stephen Hayes	Alison Bulman	Cabinet
17/09/19	03/09/19	Outcome of the tenants' satisfaction survey	James Evans	Simon Inkson	Cabinet
17/09/19	03/09/19	Budget Outturn as at 31 July 2019	Aled Wyn Davies	Jane Thomas	Cabinet
30/09/19		Highways Winter Plan	Phyl Davies	Shaun James	Portfolio Holder
08/10/19	24/09/19	3 x Supplementary Planning Guidance	Martin Weale	Peter Morris	Cabinet

National Development Framework – Welsh Government					
08/10/19	24/09/19	consultation	Martin Weale	Peter Morris	Cabinet
08/10/19	24/09/19	Budget Outturn as at 31 August 2019	Aled Wyn Davies	Jane Thomas	Cabinet
05/11/19	22/10/19	Treasury Management Quarter 2 Report	Aled Wyn Davies	Ann Owen	Cabinet
05/11/19	22/10/19	HRA Asset Management Strategy	James Evans	Simon Inkson	Cabinet
05/11/19	22/10/19	Budget Outturn as at 30 September 2019	Aled Wyn Davies	Jane Thomas	Cabinet
27/11/19	12/11/19	Council Tax Base	Aled Wyn Davies	Andrew Griffiths	Cabinet
			Myfanwy Catherine		
27/11/19	12/11/19	School Balances	Alexander	Richard Waggett	Cabinet
17/12/19	03/12/19	Budget Outturn as at 31 October 2019	Aled Wyn Davies	Jane Thomas	Cabinet
21/01/20	07/01/20	Regional Technical Statement - Minerals	Martin Weale	Peter Morris	Cabinet